

Pawn in the Pollard affair

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Hussein scouting for Arab support in Mideast strategy

By VERHDA LITANI
Post Middle East Editor and agencies

King Hussein is seeking Arab backing for his Middle East peace strategy before his forthcoming trips to Europe and the U.S. His brief visit to Syria on Friday, during which he met President Hafez Assad, was intended primarily to enlist Syrian support for the upcoming Jordanian push to convene an international Middle East peace conference.

Syrian support is vital for Hussein since Damascus is widely considered a leader of the hard-line Arab states. Hussein's meetings with Assad were apparently aimed at verifying reports by former U.S. president Jimmy Carter that Assad is ready for direct talks with Israel under the umbrella of an international peace conference.

Washington is also in contact with Syria over a proposed international peace conference, even though there is no U.S. ambassador in Damascus. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy was quoted as saying by a newspaper in the United Arab Emirates yesterday.

The *Al-Khaleej* newspaper quoted Murphy as saying: "We do not live in a world of fantasy... Syria is a factor in any solution to the Middle East equation."

Jordanian Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Foreign Minister Taher Masri will reportedly seek stronger U.S. support for a conference in talks starting tomorrow in Washington.

Jordanian officials say that if they find movement towards the Arab call for a UN-sponsored conference, Hussein might accept an invitation to visit the U.S. later this year.

Both Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak have postponed visits to Washington. Hussein said a visit would be pointless unless

there was a change in U.S. positions. Masri told Cairo's daily *Al-Ahram* that he and Rifai would seek "U.S. acceptance of the conference in principle in accordance with Jordan's point of view."

The U.S. has in the past rejected the forum, but has recently shown willingness to explore possibilities of holding the conference as a prelude for direct peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

"Jordan has not felt a shift [in the U.S. position]. But there is more flexibility now than before," Masri said.

Jordan would not accept the conference as a prelude for direct talks, as envisaged by Israel and the U.S., Masri said, adding that his country was now concentrating efforts with Washington on the nature of the conference and its role.

Hussein's meeting yesterday in Morocco with King Hassan was likely to provide him with information on Yasser Arafat's latest attitudes towards the February 1985 agreement between Jordan and the PLO on a common negotiating strategy.

According to recent reports, Arafat is about to cancel the agreement in advance of this month's meeting of the Palestine National Council. The expected cancellation is an apparent ploy to appease leftist PLO groups (mainly the DFLP and the PFLP). It would also reflect the current strained relations between Jordan and the PLO.

Hassan has a close relationship with Arafat which has survived the Moroccan monarch's meeting with Israel's then prime minister Peres in Ifrane last year.

Arab League foreign ministers convened in Tunis yesterday to discuss a proposed Middle East peace conference, but were not expected to break new ground.



An ultra-Orthodox demonstrator is driven back from Jerusalem's Hamashbir department store yesterday during a protest against a restaurant which is open on Saturdays. (See story page 2). (Rahamin-Israeli)

Shamir hopes for Peres failure over ME talks

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Prime Minister Shamir expressed the hope last night that Foreign Minister Peres "will not succeed" in his efforts in Europe to promote an international peace conference.

Shamir was asked by journalists to react to reports that Peres intended to talk about an international conference during his visits to Spain and Italy.

Peres leaves this morning for Madrid, on the first visit by an Israeli foreign minister to Spain since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two states in January 1986.

Sources in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem said that the peace process and the idea of an international conference would be high on Peres's agenda in Spain and in Italy.

A source close to Peres responded

to Shamir's remarks by saying: "This is party not state politics and therefore we will not react to it."

Peres will meet with King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. He will also visit synagogues in Toledo.

Later in the week Peres will attend a meeting of the Socialist International in Rome, which will hold a discussion on the Middle East.

Addressing the Israel Bonds leadership conference in Jerusalem last night, Shamir said that "anyone aiming for true peace and for real progress towards this goal should make it abundantly clear that such a peace conference will take us further away from peace and hurt the chances of achieving it."

U.S. denies arms sales to Iran

WASHINGTON (Reuters). - The White House yesterday denied a report that the U.S. was continuing to ship arms or weapons-related equipment to Iran. But an administration official said there had been non-weapons sales to Tehran through commercial channels.

NBC television, quoting U.S. and foreign intelligence sources, reported on Friday night that the U.S. had been shipping weapons-related equipment to Iran as recently as last month.

"To the best of our knowledge, there have been no illegal sales from the forbidden munitions list," a White House spokesman said. The Defense Department also denied any military supplies had been sent to Iran since an administration ban late last year.

An administration official, who asked not to be named, said that there had been commercial sales of products licensed by the Commerce Department, which maintains a list of products that can be exported without harming national security. (Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

NY stockbroker Stephen Stern

Pollard points to man who fingered Sella

By WOLF BLITZER

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
WASHINGTON. - Convicted spy Jonathan Jay Pollard has accused Stephen Stern, the New York stockbroker who introduced him to Air Force Colonel Aviem Sella, of being the source of the first information obtained by U.S. law-enforcement authorities of Sella's identity.

But in a telephone conversation with *The Jerusalem Post* last month, Stern suggested that Pollard was "probably" responsible for revealing Sella's role in the affair.

Justice Department sources are refusing to say exactly how they learned about Sella. They have confirmed, however, that Pollard did indeed initially try to conceal Sella's identity - as did the main Israeli officials involved in the case when they were first questioned in December 1985 in Israel by visiting U.S. investigators.

Pollard, who is serving a life sentence in Springfield, Missouri, has flatly denied that he revealed Sella's identity to the American investiga-

tors. He steadfastly tried to protect Sella, he says, but at one point, while he was being polygraphed, the Americans suddenly began asking questions about Sella. Pollard reportedly lied to protect Sella, but this was detected by the machine.

Pollard later concluded that Stern was the source of the information about Sella, who was indicted on espionage charges by a grand jury early last month. Since then, Sella resigned his position as commander of the Tel Nof air base, although he remains in the Air Force.

Stern, an old friend of the Pollard family, has acknowledged to U.S. authorities and to a grand jury that he did indeed make the initial introduction between Pollard and Sella. But he has maintained that it was all very innocent.

According to Stern, he had heard Sella lecture at an Israel Bonds meeting in a New York City synagogue in the spring of 1984, when Sella was on leave from the Air Force, studying for a doctorate in computer (Continued on Back Page)

Reagan: Affair is 'great blow'

By WOLF BLITZER

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
WASHINGTON. - President Reagan has described the Jonathan Pollard spy scandal as "a great blow," even though the overall American-Israeli relationship remains strong.

In an interview published on Friday in the *Baltimore Jewish Times*, Reagan was asked whether the relationship had been affected by the Pollard case. "I don't think so," he replied. "Our relationship with Israel is a most powerful one."

But he went on to tell veteran White House reporter Trude Feldman that Israel's image had still suffered. "I think that spying distressed us all because it was a great blow," he said. "There were some very important secrets regarding our capabilities. But I know Israel is conducting its own investigation of the matter, and I think we should await its results before further comment."

On the issue of alleged dual loyalty by American Jews, Reagan said: "I think American Jews are Americans first. I never doubted that for one moment. But obviously, any people in this multi-faceted society of ours often maintain a special kinship with their ancestral roots."

On another subject, Reagan did not rule out Soviet involvement in Arab-Israeli negotiations. But he added that "among other things, they would first have to restore diplomatic relations with Israel."

'Settling Soviet Jews will cost NIS 350m.'

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The cost of settling some 10,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants will be about NIS 350 million, according to sources in the Absorption Ministry. This amount will cover all the costs of assisting the newcomers in the first five years of their life in Israel.

This estimate will be presented to the cabinet today by Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsur, who will brief his colleagues on the preparations made by his office and the Jewish Agency for a possible massive influx of Soviet Jews.

Prime Minister Shamir said last night that there may be some significance in the fact that, during March, the Soviets issued 500 exit permits - half of the total that they allowed out during the whole of 1986.

Talking to the Israel Bonds leadership conference in Jerusalem, Sha-

mir said that there was no evidence yet that this development would lead to the beginning of an exodus from the Soviet Union. Therefore, Shamir said, "we must simply persevere in our struggle until the Soviet authorities will enable direct flights to Israel and issue permits to all Jews who want to leave."

Former French prime minister Raymond Barre advised Israel on Friday to react with caution to the developments in the USSR regarding Israel and Jews. Barre told Shamir that the basic attitudes of Mikhail Gorbachev were similar to those of his predecessors, although he was more concerned with Moscow's image in Europe, sources in Shamir's office said.

The sources said that Barre had cautioned Shamir "not to fall into the Russian trap."

Five Syrian Jews released

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. - Five Syrian Jews, imprisoned without trial since September 1986, have been released through the intervention of former U.S. president Jimmy Carter. This was announced yesterday by Abraham Foxman, associate national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Foxman said that he had asked Carter to raise the subject of the five detained Jews with the Syrian authorities before his recent Middle East tour, and also to ask about Israeli soldiers missing since the Lebanon war.

Carter met with the soldiers' families here, but could not report that the Syrians had been helpful.

Foxman yesterday expressed his deep appreciation to Carter for his humanitarian efforts. Three of the released Jews are from Damascus and two from Aleppo.

Hundreds feared dead in Ecuador flood

EL TRUNFO (AFP). - Rescue workers yesterday pressed their search for bodies and survivors of a devastating flood believed to have claimed hundreds of lives in southern Ecuador on Thursday and Friday.

The Bulu Bulu river, swelled by 40 hours of torrential rain, overflowed its banks Thursday, flooding towns and fields and setting off killer mud-

slides that buried several loaded passenger buses and swept away entire villages.

More than 100 people were trapped in cars and dwellings as some 50 almost simultaneous avalanches covered the Guayaquil-Cuenca highway and another nearby route. Rescue workers said it was unlikely all the bodies would ever be recovered.

Herzog visit to Bonn ends era of restraints

By WLADIMIR STUMINSKI

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
BONN. - President Herzog's visit to Germany this week could be said to mark the end of the era in which Israel held back on some of the top-level diplomatic rituals required by official ties between states.

The process of accepting West Germany as a fully fledged partner in this sense has been prolonged in political - if not in historical - terms,

stretching over almost four decades. At the start, no contact with Germany was conceivable. Then, with time, there was an exchange of ambassadors and reciprocal visits by members and heads of government of both states. Last month, the German national football team played its first game against the Israeli team in Israel.

Herzog's visit will therefore not be a departure from previous policy but the logical outcome of an ongoing process. It will mark the end of an era in the sense that after the visit - the first by an Israeli president, following German President Richard von Weizsaecker's visit to Israel in October 1985 - it will be difficult to claim that there are some things Israel simply does not do with respect to Germany.

There are both pragmatic and moral reasons to finalize the estab-

lishment of full fledged official relations with West Germany. After all, on the active political level, relations between the two states have been close for quite a number of years.

As for principles, there are many Germans who genuinely wish to put their country's relations with Israel on a footing of friendship, while remembering the Holocaust as a basic fact of German and Jewish history.

(Continued on Back Page)

Bloody riot mars papal mass in Chile

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP). - Pope John Paul II flew to southern Chile yesterday for visits to provincial cities, leaving behind a capital hit by scattered violence during demonstrations by government opponents emboldened by the pontiff's trip.

The chief of Santiago's central first aid station, Dr. Raul Guzman, said yesterday that 220 people were treated for injuries such as fractures and bruises sustained in a clash with police just 50 metres from a shocked Pope at a mass on Friday night. (See picture - Page 3).

Archbishop Bernardino Pinera, head of Chile's Episcopal Conference, and Santiago Archbishop Juan Francisco Cardenal Fresno condemned the violence and criticized the demonstrators who incited it.

"A few hundred people have tried to impede hundreds of thousands of faithful in the exercise of the first human right: The right to publicly express their faith," they said yesterday in a written statement, calling the violence an offence against the pope.

The pope flew out of Santiago, bound for Punta Arenas, the country's southernmost city on the Magellan Straits. He is to spend 2½

days touring provincial cities. He winds up his six-day trip to Chile tomorrow when he goes to Argentina.

The pontiff's South American tour began Tuesday in Uruguay.

Dr. Guzman said yesterday that eight of those seen at the first aid clinic were sent to an intensive care unit. The Red Cross said earlier that 600 people, mostly victims of tear gas, were seen, and police reported 38 troopers were injured, four seriously, and three civilians hit by gunfire.

Police used guns, tear gas and water cannon against the protesters at the open-air mass attended by about 600,000 people in a park Friday night.

John Paul appeared shocked, pressing his hands to his forehead and gazing out at the crowd. Vatican security guards rushed to the altar, on which "I am life" was written in Spanish.

The incident was the worst since clashes between squatters and police on Thursday, the second day of the pope's Chilean tour, in which the local radio said one man was killed, at least 60 were injured and 150 arrested.

Friday night, the pope met politicians ranging from the ultra-left to the far right, all opposed to Pinochet's rule.

Vatican sources said Pinochet's government, which only recently legalized political parties, had originally opposed the meeting.

After his visit to Punta Arenas, the pope will head north to the cities of Puerto Montt and Concepcion, spending the night in Concepcion.

In the 1960s, the University of Concepcion spawned the ideas that led to the establishment of the militant group now pledged to armed struggle against Pinochet, who survived an assassination attempt last September.

The Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR), believed to be the armed wing of the Communist Party, said it had carried out the attack in which five Pinochet bodyguards were killed.

The pope, who has branded the Pinochet government as dictatorial, had a private meeting with the Chilean leader on Thursday.

Police in Buenos Aires yesterday said they would mount a massive security operation for John Paul's visit. (AP, Reuters).

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AMSTERDAM	2	14	20	Clear
BRUSSELS	5	11	15	Cloudy
BIRMINGHAM	17	22	26	Clear
CHICAGO	-7	-28	-4	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	-1	10	16	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	-3	10	16	Cloudy
GENEVA	1	14	20	Clear
Helsinki	1	14	20	Clear
HONG KONG	18	22	26	Clear
Johannesburg	12	24	29	Clear
LEON	8	16	22	Clear
LONDON	7	10	14	Cloudy
MADRID	2	16	22	Clear
MONTREAL	2	16	22	Clear
NEW YORK	10	18	24	Clear
OSLO	0	12	18	Clear
PARIS	5	11	15	Cloudy
RIO DE JANEIRO	19	24	29	Clear
SAO PAULO	22	27	32	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	3	10	16	Cloudy
TOKYO	1	14	20	Clear
TORONTO	-2	-13	-7	Clear
VIENNA	4	11	17	Clear
ZURICH	1	14	20	Clear

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min-Max	Min-Max
Jerusalem	58	7-13	14
Golan	58	7-14	15
Nahariya	—	—	19
Safed	—	—	12
Haifa Port	—	14	19
Tiberias	48	9-22	22
Nazareth	58	9-16	16
Afula	62	9-19	19
Samaria	58	8-15	15
Tel Aviv	58	15-19	19
B-G Airport	61	7-18	19
Jericho	—	11-24	24
Gaza	58	15-18	19
Beersheba	41	9-18	19
Eilat	24	11-24	24

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Moshe Schnitzer was re-elected president of the Israel Diamond Exchange last week. This will be his 11th consecutive two-year term in office.

Three children die as wall collapses

NAZARETH (Itim). — Three local children were killed here on Thursday evening when an old stone wall collapsed on them.

The children, Ali Jozelyn, 6, Chirya Hursan, 6, and Faiz Hamen Jozelyn, 3, were playing next to the wall in a neighbourhood in the eastern part of town when the disaster occurred. They were crushed instantly.

Police and suspects clash in ambush

BAT YAM (Itim). — Two detectives and three suspected burglars were wounded Friday night when the suspects were surprised "at work."

A routine police patrol in the industrial area here noticed suspicious movement after midnight, and after calling in reinforcements set up an ambush.

The detectives saw a truck break through the gates of a factory, and then saw several men load rolls of fabric onto the vehicle. At this point the police decided to make arrests.

However, the suspects fled, and when police after firing warning shots caught up with them, violently resisted arrest.

One suspect struck an officer over the head with a brick, and also wounded another.

The wounded policemen and suspects were taken for treatment to Wolfson hospital.

All three suspects are known to the police.

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

Milo proposal on converts

Likud wants Peretz back in cabinet before Passover

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent

The Likud is making a strenuous effort to get Shas leader Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz back into the cabinet as minister of the interior before Passover.

Deputy Minister Ronnie Milo of the Likud, who is handling the interior portfolio on behalf of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the acting interior minister, has asked the Knesset Law Committee to meet tomorrow despite the current recess.

Milo will ask the committee to gazette regulations whereby the circumstances and nature of a convert's conversion to Judaism abroad would have to be noted in the Population Registry as a guide to marriage registrars.

Peretz resigned his cabinet seat earlier this year rather than accept a High Court ruling to register Reform convert Shoshana Miller of the U.S. as a Jew in her identity card.

Until now, marriage registrars have relied on the particulars in the identity card. Milo believes that

Peretz will return to the cabinet once it becomes legally possible to distinguish between Reform conversion and Orthodox conversions on the basis of particulars contained in a person's file at the Population Registry, which is part of the Interior Ministry.

Shinui MK Mordechai Virshubski last night accused the Likud and Shas of trying to sneak the "Who's a Jew" law in by the back door.

(This is the popular term for a proposed amendment to the Law of Return demanded by Shas and other Orthodox parties, whereby conversions would have to be according to Halacha, the Jewish legal code.)

Alignment MK Shevah Weiss last night charged that the blacklists allegedly kept at the Interior Ministry, for the purpose of tracking down persons whose Jewishness is halachically in doubt, will be given legal validity if the Likud-Shas proposal is approved by the Law Committee and becomes the law of the land on being published in *Reshumot*, the official gazette.

Moshav debt issue unsolved

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

The economic cabinet on Friday held another meeting on the moshavim debt crisis and the Ravid committee recommendations on how to solve it, without reaching a clear-cut decision.

The cabinet decided that the committee would complete drafting its report by Thursday, and that it would be tabled at the Knesset Finance Committee for approval.

But the Treasury insisted after the meeting that it could take longer before the recommendations were ready. The Treasury's cautious statement contrasted with the stand of the Agriculture Ministry, which wants a bail-out package for the moshavim as fast as possible.

Even if the package is tabled at the Knesset Finance Committee by the end of the week, as the moshavim and the Agriculture Ministry demand, chances are slim for swift approval. The Likud faction has already indicated that it will not

automatically approve the bail-out scheme. It maintains that aid should be given directly to the settlers, and not to the purchase organizations that are to blame for the current crisis.

According to the plans taking shape in the Ravid committee, there will be a rescheduling of moshavim debts totalling NIS 800 million, including NIS 200m. worth of debts incurred by moshavim in the Golan and the Jordan Valley. Another NIS 150m. worth of debts will be written off, and the Jewish Agency will transfer some NIS 70m. to Golan and Jordan Valley settlers.

Moshav Movement secretary Gedalia Gal yesterday warned that any delay in deciding about debt rescheduling would aggravate the crisis. In a TV interview Gal admitted that in some cases settlers would have to pay large sums to underwrite the debts of the purchase organizations. Settlers in the North will have to pay some NIS 39,000, he said.



Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir addresses an Israel Bonds dinner in Jerusalem last night. On right is Bonds president Yehuda Halevy. (Rahamin Israeli)

'A danger to the community'

JDL member released on bond of \$1m.

By WALTER RUBY
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

NEW YORK. — A member of the Jewish Defence League whom federal authorities have linked to several terrorist incidents was released on \$1 million bond yesterday by a local magistrate who said he believed the suspect was a danger to the community.

In releasing the suspect, Murray Young, 59, of East Meadow, Long Island, the magistrate said he believed Young was "unquestionably engaged in a dangerous course of conduct." However, the magistrate rejected government contentions that Young was likely to flee, stating, "I am...convinced that [Young] has roots in the community and property that will ensure his presence in court."

The magistrate added that the high bond ensured that Young would not attempt to flee the country.

Young was arrested Wednesday after federal agents searched his home, and, according to court papers, found evidence linking the JDL to "recent bombings and other ter-

rorist acts" including an incident at Lincoln Centre last fall. In that incident tear gas was turned on performers and members of the audience during the performance of a Soviet dance troupe.

Among the items seized at Young's home, according to the court papers, were 17 firearms, materials and tools used to make explosives, as well as JDL records and documents. Some of the records were said to concern JDL bombings of organizations affiliated with the Soviet Union.

Young has been charged with possession of a pistol without a serial number, a violation of federal law to which he has pleaded not guilty. A federal prosecutor said that other charges were pending.

Young, according to his attorney, Kenneth Weinstein, is an electrician who has lived in East Meadow for 30 years and has owned his own business for 20 years. Weinstein also said that Young has a distinguished military career, including army service during World War II and the Korean War.

Mubarak says Israel must talk to PLO

KUWAIT (AFP). — President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt said yesterday that Israel and the PLO would have to negotiate directly if they wanted to settle their differences.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti daily *Al-Rai Al-Am*, the Egyptian leader also called for unity between Arab countries, "because Israel will never hand us the West Bank and Gaza on a silver platter."

Asked about the refusal of some Israeli leaders to negotiate with the PLO even if the organization recognizes Israel's right to exist, Mubarak commented, "The most important is what Peres says. Listen to what he says and don't attach any importance to Shamir's declarations."

"Direct negotiations, whether one likes it or not, are inevitable at some stage," Mubarak said, adding that "carrier pigeons" — foreign intermediaries — would not suffice.

The Egyptian leader called on other Arab countries to "take advantage of the existence of relations between Egypt and Israel to resolve the Palestinian problem."

China says ME policy unchanged despite talks

PEKING (Reuters). — China announced yesterday that a recent meeting between the Chinese and Israeli representatives at the UN did not indicate a change in China's policy on the Middle East.

The meeting last month was the first openly acknowledged meeting between representatives of the two states.

Vice-Foreign Minister Qi Huaiyuan told a news conference: "The meeting between the permanent representatives to the United Nations of China and Israel is part of the efforts China has made to express its support for the convocation of an international conference for the settlement of the question of the Middle East."

"It does not mean that China's policy with regard to these questions has been changed."

Murder suspect held

HAIFA (Itim). — Police on Friday arrested a man suspected of murdering an elderly beggar the previous night.

The suspect's name has been withheld from publication.

Zoltan Weiss, 70, was found dead in his shack in Kiryat Binyamin after a neighbour alerted police and Magen David Adom. He had apparently been beaten with a blunt instrument. His home was in total disorder, police said.



Linda Robertson of the Israel Women's Network blows a shofar at a ceremony in Jerusalem of the International Women Writers' Conference, which has moved on to Galilee for further sessions. (Brian Hendler)

U.S. DENIES

(Continued from Page One)

Details of those shipments were not available.

President Reagan banned arms shipments to Tehran after the Iran arms scandal broke last November.

In January, Secretary of State George Shultz told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that there would be "no more transfers of U.S.-origin military equipment to Iran, either directly or through third parties."

The NBC report said the Penta-

gon was coordinating shipments of anti-aircraft command and control equipment used to direct fire of weapons systems. It said some shipments labelled "machine parts" had moved through Ostend, Belgium, on aircraft of Santa Lucia Airways, which it identified as operated by the CIA.

A goal of the operation was to keep open a dialogue with elements of the Iranian regime who had been involved in the earlier U.S. arms sales to Iran, the report said.

Idi Amin men named in Dora Bloch murder

KAMPALA (Reuters). — Dora Bloch, left behind in Uganda during the 1976 Entebbe raid, was killed by two army officers close to Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, a former minister in Amin's government has said.

Henry Kyemba, who was health minister at the time, said Bloch, 73, was dragged from her bed at Kampala's Mulago hospital by the two, who drove her away and killed her.

Giving evidence to Uganda's Human Rights Commission Friday, Kyemba named the two men as Lt. Col. Frank Minawa, the deputy director of the State Research Bureau (Amin's dreaded secret police), and Capt. Nasur Ondoga the former president's chief of protocol.

Both men fled the country after Amin's overthrow in 1979 and are believed to be living in Sudan.

Bloch was a passenger on an Air France plane hijacked by Palestinian guerrillas in late June 1976. Kyemba said she was transferred to hospital with a piece of meat lodged in her throat.

She was still in hospital when Israeli commandos launched their 90-minute raid on July 3. Kyemba said hospital staff informed him that Bloch had been left behind. Later, Minawa and Ondoga took her away and killed her.

The four-man commission is investigating human rights abuses in Uganda from independence in 1962 to January 1986.

Panicky flat-dwellers saved in Tel Aviv dawn fire

TEL AVIV (Itim). — A fire broke out on an upper floor of a multi-storey apartment building here at 5 a.m. yesterday, but alert residents and quick action by rescue workers prevented a possible tragedy.

No one was hurt by the blaze, apparently caused by a short circuit in a fuse box, but a Border Policeman and a fireman were slightly injured in the rescue operation in which panicky residents were lowered from their apartment balconies by crane.

Hahagana was noticed by the public and the police, who alerted the fire department and Magen David Adom. Ambulances and fire engines arrived within five minutes.

The building's residents were dressed and out on their balconies with some screaming and others preparing to drop their children to the ground. One resident wanted to jump until firemen persuaded him to wait to be saved. Eight ambulances and 41 emergency mobile units had arrived at the scene, and first-aid was administered to those suffering from

Orthodox, secular clash over Sabbath restaurant

By ANDY COURT

Me and Me, the Jerusalem restaurant that opens on the Sabbath, was the scene of another confrontation yesterday between ultra-Orthodox protesters and members of the Citizens Rights Movement.

A 14-year-old ultra-Orthodox youth was arrested, apparently for throwing stones.

Between 50 and 100 people gathered at around 4:30 p.m. near the City Tower building, where the restaurant is located.

The CRM demonstrators carried placards against religious coercion.

When some of the ultra-Orthodox demonstrators began to throw stones, mounted police broke up the demonstration and made the single arrest.

This was the fourth Sabbath in a row that ultra-Orthodox have protested against the restaurant being open, but the first in which the CRM made its presence felt. On Wednesday and Thursday, one of the restaurant's windows were broken, the co-owner of the restaurant, Moshe Asher, said. In one of the incidents, a guard reported to police that he had seen ultra-Orthodox men fleeing the scene.

Soldiers try to prevent polling

Gaza workers defy ban on union elections

By ANDY COURT

For The Jerusalem Post

For the first time since labour activity was effectively banned in Gaza 20 years ago, Gazan commercial and public service workers held union elections yesterday.

The election occurred despite the efforts of the military authorities, who dispatched soldiers to prevent people from entering the union office. The soldiers removed printed ballots and ballot boxes from the office, unionists said.

Tal'at Laffi, one of the union activists elected yesterday, was arrested two days ago and reportedly charged with "incitement."

The commercial and public services workers' union is the second of Gaza's six trade unions to defy military authorities and to vote for new union officials. The carpenters and building workers' union voted for new leaders on February 21, but military authorities have refused to acknowledge them. The four other Gaza trade unions are planning to hold elections in the near future.

The organizers of yesterday's elections say that they are simply trying to breathe new life into dormant institutions in order to teach Gaza's workers about their economic rights. The military government, however, opposes the new elections mainly because they "encourage hostile elements," according to a source in the civil administration.

"There's no union activity in the Western sense in Gaza," he said. "They want to use the unions as they use the universities, as they use the newspapers, to strengthen the in-

frastructure of the PLO-affiliated organizations in the area."

But Hussein Ibrahim Abu-Nar, one of those elected yesterday, charged that the military government doesn't want workers to organize because it wants to make sure there's a cheap labour supply for Israeli employers.

"If the workers understand their rights, they'll be able to get more from their employers," he said.

Because some soldiers prevented union members from entering the union office, unionists regrouped at the International Red Cross building in Gaza, where a sit-in was being held in solidarity with hunger-striking Palestinian security prisoners.

About 177 of the union's 259 members voted.

The six Gaza unions were formed under Egyptian rule in 1966, but were closed down from the beginning of the Israeli occupation in 1967 until 1980, according to Marty Rosenbluth, a volunteer for the al-Haq human rights organization (formerly called Law in the Service of Man).

Under pressure from the International Labour Organization, Israeli authorities lifted the ban in 1980, but have still refused to allow the unions to hold new elections or meetings, he said.

The civil administration source, however, said that elections have been held since 1967, and that "in principle" the government has nothing against union elections as long as they follow the Egyptian law that applied before occupation and don't "incite hostile elements."

Golan unveiling passes quietly

RAMAT HAGOLAN (Itim). — Thousands of Druse yesterday attended the unveiling ceremony of a statue of Sultan al-Atrash in Majdal Shams.

Large police forces were on hand to preserve order, but no disturb-

ances were reported.

Police have in the past prevented the Druse from putting up the statue of their leader, saying that they required a permit from the Interior Ministry's Town Planning Committee. The permit was received recently.

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widow of Dr. Paul Enoch ז"ל
is no more

The funeral will be held at the old cemetery in Haifa, Hof Hacarmel, at 1 p.m. today.

Yael (Conny) Barak and family
Anette Enoch and family
Dr. Dan Enoch and family
Jurgen Isay and family

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BORIS (Boaz) YARON (Josephowitz)

For details of funeral arrangements, please call 04-381804.

Mourning by, his wife,
Lilo Yaron (née Frankenstein)
Daughters and sons-in-law,
Ruth and Jochal Gal
Naomi and Shlomo Elbaz
Grandchildren,
Roi, Orly and Michal
and the family in Israel and abroad

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with great pain and a sense of loss,
extend condolences to the family
on the tragic passing of

KAREN DUBB

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HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

Sequel to Paris expulsion of three Russians

Soviets oust four French diplomats, two businessmen

MOSCOW. - The Soviet Union yesterday ordered two French diplomats and a French businessman working in Moscow to leave the country within seven days, and said another two diplomats and a businessman would be expelled later.

Soviet television said the French Ambassador to Moscow, Yves Pagniez, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry yesterday and told the six were being expelled for "activities incompatible with their official status," a phrase often used to mean spying.

The expulsion order followed an announcement by France on Thursday that three Soviet diplomats in Paris were being ordered to leave in a move linked to the discovery of a spy ring allegedly trying to steal secrets of the European Ariane rocket.

Soviet television said the Ambassador had been informed that Moscow considered the expulsion of the Soviet diplomats as "an overtly unfriendly act...aimed at poisoning the atmosphere of Soviet-French contacts."

The diplomatic row has soured relations between Paris and Moscow at a time when Prime Minister Jacques Chirac is preparing to visit the Soviet Union next month.

Moscow has strongly denied any involvement in the alleged space espionage, and has protested twice to French authorities this week over allegations that Soviet nationals were linked.

One of the protests concerned the arrest of Lyudmila Varygina, 31, a Soviet citizen married to a Frenchman. The couple was among seven people charged with spying.

Varygina was released from prison and placed under police surveillance in the Normandy city of Rouen on Friday. Her husband, civil servant Pierre Verdier, is still in detention.

Meanwhile, the new U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Jack Matlock, met with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze yesterday, the official Tass news agency reported.

The brief report said the two officials discussed Soviet-American relations but gave no other details. (Reuters, AP)

Mubarak: Religion not election issue

CAIRO (Reuters). - President Hosni Mubarak has warned political parties against making religion an issue in tomorrow's parliamentary elections in Egypt, although his own party appears to be chasing the decisive Moslem vote.

"Using religion to win the votes is sensitive and dangerous...playing with the country's stability could lead to destruction," Mubarak told a political rally in the Nile Delta town of Zagazig on Thursday.

"There is no difference between a Moslem and a Christian...we are all Egyptians," he added.

More than 10 per cent of Egypt's 51 million people are Coptic Christians in a mainly Sunni Moslem population.

Mubarak's warning came after candidates of the six legal political parties contesting 448 elected seats in the 458-member People's Assembly, including Mubarak's National Democratic Party (NDP), raised religion as an issue.

Meanwhile, police rounded up thousands of members of the Fundamentalist Moslem Brotherhood and warned them against political activity ahead of the elections, security sources said yesterday.

The sources said several thousand members and sympathizers of the organization, which is banned but tolerated by the government, were detained briefly on public prosecutors' orders and told not to get involved in politics.

U.S. stays ouster of Estonian war criminal

NEW YORK (Reuters). - A federal appeals court has stayed its order allowing the deportation to the Soviet Union of an Estonian accused of being a concentration camp commandant just as immigration agents were taking him to the airport.

The Second Circuit Court of Appeals stayed its order against Karl Linnaas, 67, until tomorrow afternoon to allow his attorneys time to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Linnaas is accused of being the commandant of a concentration camp in Tartu, Estonia, now part of the Soviet Union, where more than 12,000 Jews and Communists were killed during World War II.

Former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clarke, who is Linnaas's lawyer, said he plans to ask Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall to stay the order.

Left-wing alliance censure topples Portuguese gov't

LISBON (Reuters). - Portugal's Socialist Democrats, their 17-month rule ended by a parliamentary censure vote on Friday night, yesterday called for early elections to solve the political crisis.

"The only way out of the crisis is to hold elections as soon as possible," Antonio Capucho, head of the parliamentary group of the Socialist Democratic Party (PSD), said.

The PSD's minority government, the 16th since Portugal's 1974 revolution, was ousted by 134 votes to 108 in a censure motion backed by three left-wing parties - the Socialists, the Democratic Renewal Party (PRD) and the Communists.

Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva, who had accused the opposition of indulging in irresponsible political games, said after the vote that he could make no comment until he consulted President Mario Soares.

Soares, due home today after a 12-day visit to Brazil, must decide whether to try to form a new government from the present left-dominated parliament or call an early election.

Cavaco Silva, resigned to losing the censure vote, said repeatedly that only the nation should choose the new government and his closing speech ended in an electioneering note.

"Don't imagine you can destroy our will...or our spirit. We trust the judgment of the Portuguese," he told parliament.

The opposition, well aware that opinion polls show strong support for Cavaco Silva, is less keen on an election and has already discussed forming a coalition government.

The prosecutor ordered the arrest of anyone campaigning in the name of the Moslem Brothers or caught putting up banners on their behalf, the sources added.

Security police freed nine suspected members of a Communist group said to have been planning to disrupt the elections, security sources said yesterday.

The sources said police were still holding one man arrested on Thursday with the other nine, who were released for lack of evidence.

Interior Ministry sources said earlier the men had planned to use the elections to incite unrest and that leaflets urging people to vote for Communist candidates were seized.

Jewels net \$50m. for Aids fight

GENEVA (Reuters). - The Duchess of Windsor's fabulous collection of modern jewelry has earned a staggering 75 million Swiss francs (\$50m.) in the jewel sale of the century and the proceeds will help to fight Aids.

The jewelry, a glittering historic moment of the "Romance of the Century" between the twice-divorced American and King Edward VIII, raised 10 times the amount expected by Sotheby's auction house.

Buyers in a frenzied two-day sale that ended here Friday night included actress Elizabeth Taylor. She paid 935,000 Swiss francs (\$625,000) for a diamond clip designed as the plumes and crown of the Prince of Wales, Edward's title before he became king.

A Royal Naval officer's sword dated 1913 and worn by Edward when he was the Prince of Wales brought 2.2 million Swiss francs (\$1.4m.) from an anonymous bidder.

There were fierce duels between buyers on both sides of the Atlantic as they vied to acquire exquisite masterpieces by Cartier, Van Cleef and Arpels, Dardé et fils and other 20th century master craftsmen.

Bids leapt by 100,000 Swiss francs (\$65,000) a call.

Beirut U. pleads for release of dying hostage

BEIRUT (Reuters). - Beirut University urged Moslem kidnappers on Friday to send dying academic Alan Steen to hospital after Beirut's Al-Shira magazine reported that Steen and his three colleagues might be freed.

The Executive Committee of Beirut University College (BUC) said Steen needed to be in intensive care and appealed for the release of the other three.

It was reacting to a video recording issued by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine Thursday night in which Steen's fellow hostage Jesse Turner said the 47-year-old communications instructor was in grave danger.

"Americans Steen, Turner and Robert Polhill and Indian Mithileshwar Singh, who were seized on January 24, are among 28 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon."

Greece eyes ex-king's property after seizing church lands

ATHENS (Reuters). - Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu said yesterday his government, already engaged in a land row with the Greek Orthodox church, plans to take over the property of ex-King Constantine.

Speaking in Kileler, central Greece, at a ceremony marking the anniversary of a peasants' revolt in 1910, he said the government would allow the 46-year-old former monarch, in exile in Britain, to keep the site north of Athens where members of his family are buried.

"The entire property of the former royal family apart from a small piece of land connecting the graves goes to the Greek state," he said.

Government officials estimate the property of the former king to be worth about \$40 million.

He owns a 10,000-acre estate north of Athens and a summer palace on the island of Corfu, where Prince Philip, husband of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, was born.

Constantine lost his property after he tried to stage a coup in 1967 against the military government of the time and fled to Britain.

It was restored to him after the dictatorship collapsed in 1974, but he remained in exile. Greece is now a republic headed by a president.

Parliament on Friday approved a government bill providing for the takeover by the state of 325,000 acres of church land.

AIRBUS. - Northwest Airlines of the U.S. has ordered up to 20 of the European Airbus consortium's planned new A340 long-range airliners, with an option on 10 more A330 medium-range jets, in a deal worth more than \$2.5 billion, Airbus announced on Friday.

FOREIGN BRIEFS

Smash Irish play heads for Jerusalem

DUBLIN (Reuters). - After breaking all box office records in Dublin, the Gate Theatre's production of Irish playwright Sean O'Casey's masterpiece "Juno and the Paycock" is going on a world tour, a theatre spokesman announced Friday.

First stop for the highly acclaimed production, starring Irish actor Donal McCann, will be the Israel Festival in Jerusalem.

Yugoslav court denies war criminal's appeal

BELGRADE (Reuters). - The Yugoslav federal court has turned down an appeal to commute the death sentence of World War II Nazi war criminal Andrija Artukovic.

The official Tanjug news agency said Artukovic's lawyers filed for the second time for extraordinary mitigation because of Artukovic's poor health. The first appeal filed last November was also rejected.

Searchers can't locate missile dropped by jet

TOKYO (AFP). - Some 150 Japanese police, helped by two U.S. Marine Corps helicopters, yesterday searched a snow-covered mountain in western Japan without success for a missile accidentally dropped by a U.S. F-4 Phantom fighter.

The "Sparrow" air-to-air missile, tipped with a non-nuclear warhead, did not explode when it fell on Friday. The fighter was on a training mission.

Marine Corps authorities and Japanese police said they would expand the search today, from Mount Tenguishi, some 50 kilometres north of Hiroshima.

65 Mafia members convicted in Sicily

MESSINA (Reuters). - A Sicilian court Friday night convicted 65 Mafia defendants of criminal association, including one gang boss who received a 13-year prison sentence.

The court acquitted 180 other defendants at the end of a trial lasting nearly a year. The 65 convicted received a total of 385 years in jail.

Sierra Leone V-P under house arrest

FREETOWN (AFP). - Francis Minah, who was sacked on Friday as Sierra Leone's first vice-president, has been placed under house arrest as inquiries continue into last month's abortive coup against President Joseph Momoh, police said here yesterday.

His arrest followed police inquiries into the abortive March 23 coup plot in which the ringleader was identified as assistant police superintendent Mohamed Kalkai.

Charges against the alleged plotters are to be filed this week.

Vogel stepping into Brandt's shoes

New chief for fractious German SPD

Ideological divisions between left and right wings are one of them, organizational weakness is another.

Also, even though the SPD came up with a platform last year with which its different camps agreed - including, among others, the decision to abandon nuclear energy within ten years and to say in NATO - it will have to struggle for the support of major groups of voters.

Much of its traditional support from blue-collar workers and intellectuals has ebbed away. Moreover, the party has not succeeded in winning back those voters who drifted to the "Greens" in the recent years.

Many observers think that Vogel can reinvigorate his party with good organization and legwork rather than visionary ideology.

Following the 1983 elections in which the SPD failed to regain the power it had lost in 1982, Vogel's leadership was instrumental in saving the SPD Bundestag faction from becoming demoralized, Vogel's style, while not charismatic, "made people work," as one observer puts it.

Vogel's political career began in 1960 when he was elected the mayor of Munich. At the age of 34 he became the youngest mayor of a European city with more than one million inhabitants and maintained his popularity throughout his tenure which lasted until 1972.

He then served in the federal governments of Willy Brandt as minister of housing and urban development and of Helmut Schmidt as the justice minister.

In this latter job, Vogel had to deal with a double problem: the fight against left-wing terrorism and right-wing demands to take anti-terrorist measures which may have hurt West Germany's democratic and liberal character.

Himself a staunch supporter of the rule of law, Vogel is credited with weathering the storm while keeping Germany liberal.

Within his own party, Vogel was early identified with the moderate -

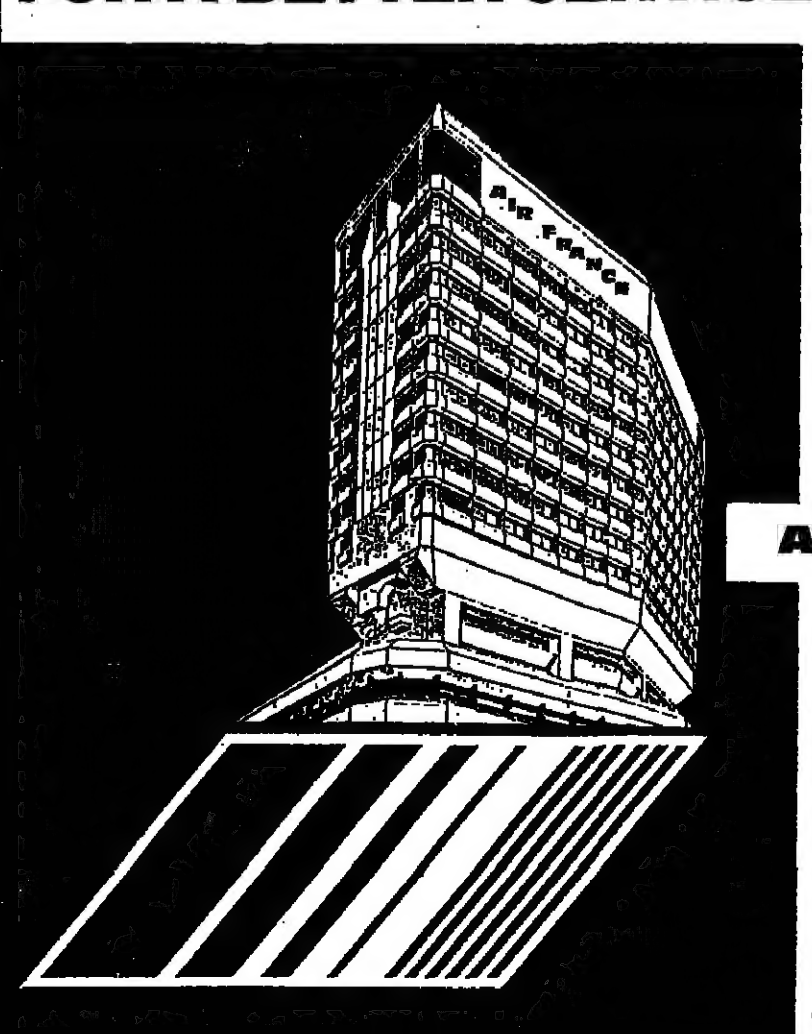
or "right", in the party's parlance - wing. Still, being a disciplined organization man, he is expected to carry out the decisions of the majority.

An Israeli source describes Vogel as sensitive to Israel's interests and knowledgeable on the Middle East.

Last Wednesday Vogel delivered a speech at a Social Democratic celebration of David Ben-Gurion's centenary in Bonn. He strongly stressed his party's commitment to the special link between the destinies of the German and the Jewish peoples. He also pledged that the German Social Democrats would do everything to prevent damage to Jewish-German relations.

It remains to be seen, however, to what degree the party will follow Vogel - on this as well as on the main issues of German politics. The "headmaster," as he is known, is stepping in front of an unruly class.

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מתיקים לשמחה

All he wanted to do was rent out a flat

The lawyer who became 'pawn' in Pollard affair

By ROBERT ROSENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — All Harold Katz wanted was to rent out a small apartment he owned in Washington.

Now he's become a pawn between Israel and the U.S., pushed around on a media chessboard in which every square is a test of his loyalties and responsibilities — as an American, as an Israeli, as a lawyer, as a former Defence Ministry employee here, as a businessman here and there.

The Israeli government doesn't want him to go to America — where he is a citizen and a member of the bar — because he might be subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury.

Katz made aliyah in 1972. In 1985, while in Washington, he decided to let the small flat. He had some Israeli tenants lined up.

As he has told friends, while in Washington he bumped into Irit Erb, a Defence Ministry secretary he knew from the 1970s when he was legal counsel to the ministry. She, by coincidence, happened to be a tenant in the same building.

Katz mentioned to her that he needed to get some cheap furniture, because he had promised a semi-furnished apartment to his tenants, and she offered to do him a favour.

Erb said that she knew of another tenant in the building who was selling some furniture. He gave her \$300 cash for the furniture and a key to the apartment, because he was heading back to Israel and wouldn't have time to handle the matter. His lawyer also had a key, and would handle the actual rental arrangement with the tenants who were to arrive a few weeks later. He assumed Erb would hand over the key to the new tenants when they arrived.

That's all Katz says he knew about any connection between Erb and his

apartment, until he got a phone call from the Defence Ministry secretary six months later.

She had just given testimony to a Washington prosecutor who was here gathering evidence about the Pollard affair, as part of a deal in which the Israelis, promising full cooperation, allowed questioning of Israeli principals, in exchange for immunity from prosecution. Erb called Katz to let him know that the prosecutor might call him and to tell him what she had told the American investigator.

Sure enough, he got a call from the prosecutor, and provided him with a sworn affidavit explaining the apartment, the cash, the furniture, and the key.

In that affidavit — given, as the American lawyer in Katz stated on Thursday night "under pain and penalty of perjury" — he denied any knowledge of Pollard, said he had never met Aviem Sella, let alone introduced him to Pollard, and made it clear that he had never handled any money or documents connected with the case.

With that, he figured, the affair as far as he was concerned was over.

Because Katz had been trained to be discreet, none of his many friends in Israel knew about his affidavit to the Americans. Katz is not one to besmirch either the American government or the Israeli government — not even in private. But, say his friends, in his huge repertoire of good jokes, there'll be one from which his audience can guess his political views.

Almost a year later, Aviem Sella had been promoted, and Rafi Eitan had a good job at Israel Chemicals and was threatening to fight any attempt to dislodge him, and the Americans were mad. Full Israeli disclosure and cooperation had, in American eyes, turned into a badly performed farce. Then Sella resigned.

And Katz's name suddenly appeared on the front pages of the Washington Post as a mysterious contact who had introduced Pollard to Sella and handled financial transactions connected with the affair.

According to the Washington Post, quoting sources connected with the investigation, Israel's refusal to allow Katz to testify about the affair — even though he has been granted immunity — was a sure sign that Jerusalem was covering something up. And that something, they implied, was a wider Israeli espionage network in the U.S.

Some Israelis — like Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev — are blaming "professional interests [in the U.S.]...who for reasons of their own want to keep this affair on the front burner." Some Americans are blaming

ing the Israelis for not being as forthcoming as promised when the Pollard affair broke.

In conversations with his friends, 65-year-old Katz blames nobody. Not even Erb. And he says he has nothing to hide on the subject.

But he does have a problem. As legal counsel to the Defence Ministry between 1972 and 1983, he is very well informed about what he calls "matters of sensitivity."

As a former employee of the ministry — and an Israeli citizen — he signed a legally binding document that forbids him to give information on those matters to anybody unauthorized to receive that information.

Katz is ready to answer any questions the prosecutors would like to ask. The Israelis say that's fine by them — as long as the questions are asked here, even in the U.S. embassy, if that's what the prosecutors want. So far, the prosecutors say no.

Katz first started doing favours for Israel when he became a Mahal officer on board illegal immigration ships to Palestine in the years immediately after World War II.

He got sidetracked into a successful career in the U.S., postponing aliyah for almost 30 years. But he kept on doing favours for Israel.

In those years in the U.S., like many American Zionists, he opened his home — and often his wallet — to many an Israeli, on official or unofficial business. But providing a Washington safe-house for Israeli spies was not the kind of favour he had in mind.

Like many American Zionists, he sometimes feels that he has been used by the Israelis. His Hebrew is good enough to know the word "freier," which is inadequately translated as "sucker," and in very, very private conversations he might even use the term to make a joke at his own expense.

But Katz is patriotic about both Israel and America, and refuses to discuss those feelings publicly. Even in private he isn't blaming Erb. At most, he may tell long-time friends with much irony, that it was presumptuous of the Israelis to use the apartment without his knowledge.

So now, he's a pawn in a much larger game than renting an apartment in Washington.

He's been "much aggrieved" by the publicity. Maybe he'll sue the Washington Post. Maybe he'll just let it ride, hoping that other events will drive his name off the front pages. As a lawyer he has been consulting other lawyers, to avoid, he says, having a fool for a client.

And even if he won't say so or admit it to himself, whenever he's asked a favour or offered a favour by an Israeli, Harold Katz will probably ask himself deep inside: Whom do you trust?

Arens: Lavi critics don't know about fighter aircraft

By JONATHAN KARP
TEL AVIV. — Minister without Portfolio Moshe Arens last week criticized opponents of the Lavi for speaking without knowing about fighter aircraft and expressed confidence that the plane would pass the government review due to be completed this month.

Addressing the Friends of the Weizmann Institute, Arens, a professor of aeronautical engineering and former defence minister, rejected the idea that modifying U.S.-built F-15s and F-16s with the Lavi's avionics and electronic systems was

an acceptable alternative to the Lavi itself. As far as the IDF's needs were concerned, Arens said, it would be better for Israel to produce its own multi-purpose fighter which would be cheaper and more readily supplied than planes purchased from abroad.

Noting that the second Lavi prototype made its maiden flight earlier this week, Arens said that the project was progressing well. He added that there was great interest in the Lavi abroad and that he believed several countries would buy the fighter.

Plane lands because of bomb-hoax

LOD (Itim). — El Al flight 036 from New York to Israel Thursday night returned to Kennedy Airport after a telephone caller warned there was a

bomb on board. But a search of the plane revealed nothing suspicious. The hoax call was taped 40 minutes after the plane took off.



The disclosure that two bear cubs presented by Switzerland to visiting Israeli President Chaim Herzog for the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo are of the 'Syrian brown bear' species has caused some embarrassment among Swiss officials, according to the Swiss press. The fact that the local 'Berne Zeitung' newspaper also discovered that the father bear is named 'Assad' contributed. The bear is the heraldic animal of the canton of Bern. The president and his wife Aura are seen above with one of the cubs. The Jerusalem zoo already has Syrian bears. The mother gave birth last week and is shown below with her cubs. (Harnik, GPO; Scoop 80)



U.S. wine firm moves into Israeli market

Kosher for Pessah, from California

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

"This year the four cups of wine at my Seder will be White Zinfandel," says Joseph Zucker. "The guests may be surprised at first, but I'm sure they'll like it."

Zucker hopes that not only his guests will like it, but also enough other Israelis to enable Kedem wines to make a dent in the local market. Zucker represents the U.S. wine firm, and for the holiday season has brought in about 1,500 cases of American wines, ranging from a "naturally sweet" Concord to California Chardonnay.

The Concord is not quite as sweet or syrupy as the kiddush wine which many American Jews grew up with but it has the same distinctive tart taste. The company is even importing natural Concord grape juice, hoping the taste will stir the memories of some immigrants from North America.

The American wine manufacturers started by making kosher Concord wine in New York's Lower East Side. They moved into up-market trade about 10 years ago, when they took 1,000 cases of Bordeaux produced by students at a French yeshiva.

"We figured that even if we didn't sell the wine, we'd be helping out the yeshiva," Zucker says. At the time, their most "adventurous" product was a semi-dry Sauterne, but the Bordeaux was snapped up immediately.

From there, the winery went on to

arranging for production of Soave and Valpolicella in Italy, with workers, all observant Jews, brought in from all over Europe.

In the U.S., Kedem is also selling the Baron Jaquard de Herzog series from California, which includes Chardonnay, White Zinfandel, Chenin Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon varieties. In New York state, it produces a Johannisberg Riesling as well as the Concord and two semi-sweet wines labelled Matuk Royale blanc and Matuk Royale rouge.

Zucker is also quick to point out that Kedem represents the Montfort, Gamla and Hebron labels in the U.S. In the first quarter of this year, he says, Kedem sold \$500,000 worth of Israeli wines and cookies, and he is looking for other Israeli goods to sell in the U.S.

The Israeli market for the U.S. wines includes customers at better liquor stores, as well as hotels and restaurants.

"In wine you need diversity," he stresses, adding that Kedem is one of the first to bring kosher wine into Israel.

Retail prices for the California wines range from NIS 15 to NIS 25. The New York Concord sells for about NIS 10, and the grape juice for about NIS 6.

For the moment, Zucker says, the free trade agreement between Israel and the U.S. has little effect on duties on wine. But the tariffs will be gradually reduced over the coming years, making the U.S. wines more and more competitive in Israel.

Emigration and a peace conference

Tsur says it's foolish to deny linkage in talks with Soviets

By BRADLEY BURSTON
BEERSHEBA. — Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsur on Friday called for direct talks with Soviet leaders over participation in an international Middle East peace conference, in order to encourage the Kremlin to follow through with rumoured concessions on Jewish emigration.

He sharply criticized recent statements by Minister-without-Portfolio Moshe Arens, calling them "Arens' foolish attempts to try to separate the international conference question from that of the Jews."

Tsur declared that any such separation was "only in the imagination of Likud ministers. It may be more comforting to think that such a separation exists, but where the USSR is concerned, it isn't realistic."

"We have consistently stated in the past that our condition for agreeing to talk with the Soviets over the Middle East was a change in their stance over the Jews," Tsur continued. "I call to the government to reverse this position, to turn to the Soviets and say, 'We want change on Jewish issues, and we agree to discuss with you any and all issues, including the international conference. In this critical hour of apparent opportunity, we must become the side that initiates, not the side that waits.'"

Speaking to reporters at a press conference here, Tsur said that at a time when "Mrs. Thatcher talks to the Russians about the Middle East

and Soviet Jewry, Mitterrand talks to the Russians about the Middle East and Soviet Jewry, and Shultz talks to the Russians about the Middle East and Soviet Jewry, only the government of Israel publicly declares that it has a problem with such talks."

In marked contrast to previous waves of immigration, the new arrivals will be housed in rented apartments; and aliya officials have agreed to allow the immigrants to choose their city or area of residence.

Tsur disclosed that the Amidar housing authority has already made 200 apartments in central Israel available for Soviet immigrants. Additional housing is to be offered shortly throughout the country.

Asked if Soviet immigrants would be free to live in the territories, Tsur replied that while immigrants could choose to live wherever they liked, he would prefer to see them settle in the Negev, the Galilee, and in Jerusalem.

"The Negev, in particular, has paid the price for the development of Judea and Samaria, and in an era of limited resources, with \$300 million allocated to the territories just in the last two years, no one can argue that there is 'enough to go around' also for the Negev. But, since Beersheba has one of the nation's largest communities of Soviet immigrants [currently around 24,000], we are hopeful that many new olim will choose to come here."

Charge is withdrawn against hero of Warsaw Ghetto

By ALEXANDER ZVIELLI
Special to The Jerusalem Post

There was a certain tension outside the chambers of Judge Ezra Kama of the Jerusalem Magistrates Court last week as Ukrainian Jews waited to attend the hearing of case no. 2743-86, namely the State of Israel vs. Stefan Grajek.

Grajek, the silver-haired hero of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, was expected to be charged with the destruction of a Mt. Zion memorial for Ukrainians killed by the Nazis during World War II and those who perished during Stalin's regime.

Grajek reportedly destroyed the memorial last September in the firm belief that he was removing a profanity from a Jewish holy place. The memorial was inscribed to 1,500,000 Ukrainian Jews, to 3,000,000 Ukrainians killed by the Nazis, and to the millions who died during the famine of 1932-33. It had been put up on Ukrainian Day, May 13, 1986, by former Prisoner of Zion Ya'acov Suslenski and his Association for Jewish-Ukrainian contacts.

Grajek, the venerable chairman of the Israeli Organization of Fighters, Partisans and Nazi camp survivors, witnessed terrible crimes com-

mitted by Ukrainians in the Warsaw Ghetto.

Last December, Suslenski and his friends demonstrated on Mt. Zion, at the Chamber of the Holocaust, where their memorial had stood. They have argued that while there were beasts among the Ukrainians, an entire nation should not be labelled bandits and killers. Suslenski's life was saved by two Ukrainians while he was in prison in Vladimir.

Many Ukrainians suffered from the Nazis and helped Jews on various occasions, Suslenski said.

But Rabbi Menahem Fogel, Yad Vashem's director of commemoration and public relations, commented that there was no place for such a memorial anywhere in Israel.

"For Judge Kama; however, the Grajek case was just one of 22 cases on his agenda. But as soon as the case came up, he declared that he no longer had any jurisdiction on the matter as the attorney-general had withdrawn his charges. Those who wish to proceed with the case will have to apply either to the attorney-general or the High Court of Justice."

Suslenski and his supporters declared that they wished to press charges.



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#141-10-022

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#125-10-022



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#102-10-024

A strong voice from the pulpit

Reform Rabbi Julia Neuberger is not afraid to speak out on Aids, Nazi war criminals—or the Anglo-Jewish community, The Post's David Horowitz reports from London.

RABBI JULIA Neuberger does not mince words. In the space of a half-an-hour interview, she accuses the British Jewish community of paranoia and hypocrisy, the chief rabbi of occasionally being out of touch, and Anglo-Jewish institutions of being counterproductive.

At first sight, 15 minutes late and weighed down under four bags of shopping, she could be mistaken for a typical London Jewish housewife. But Neuberger is far from typical—as even the briefest conversation confirms. She is Britain's second woman rabbi ever, and one of Judaism's best-known spokespersons here.

Neuberger planned to take up a career in archeology, but her Hebrew tutor at Cambridge suggested that she train for the rabbinate. She emerged triumphant from the Leo Baeck College in 1977 to take her place alongside Jackie Tabick as the first female representatives of the British reform rabbinate.

While Tabick shuns the inevitable limelight, Neuberger relishes it. With her photogenic features and knack for coming a good quote, she was soon a regular on the radio, on TV and in the papers. More importantly, she was a hit with her congregation, Streatham—the South London Liberal Synagogue. "They had always been an equal opportunity synagogue," she says. "Their first president was a woman and they had decided that they would like to try a woman rabbi."

NEUBERGER'S COMMUNITY takes in a remarkable cross-section of Anglo Jewry, she says, ranging from O.C.s to market traders, "the least materialistic Jews" she's ever come across. While her synagogue has always defended her from her critics, her outspokenness has ruffled feathers, particularly among Orthodox Jewish leaders.

She has had what she describes as several "run-ins" with the chief rabbi, over subjects as diverse as divorce, racism, and the prescribing of contraceptive pills for girls under 16. Neuberger believed Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits was wrong to

suggest that the blacks, like the Jews, ought to "pull themselves up by their boots," and she said so publicly.

"My colleagues have told me that sometimes he does get angry, but there's no authority structure in Progressive Jewry, so fortunately nobody can tell me what to say or do."

Outspoken on many issues, Neuberger is not afraid to admit to feelings of ambivalence over the pursuit of alleged Nazi war criminals in Britain.

"I think it's worrying that the young are so keen to pursue them, but I can fully understand the [Holocaust] survivors' desire for vengeance. I don't know what the right course of action is, but the more I see of the passion to pursue, the less comfortable I feel."

There is nothing ambivalent, however, in her opinion of the Jewish community's response to the spread of Aids.

"I don't know the exact figures," Neuberger says, eyes blazing, "but several Jews have died of Aids, and several more will die soon. The community here won't acknowledge that there are homosexuals in its midst."

She believes that there is probably a relatively high ratio of homosexuals among Anglo Jewry, and that the community should be doing more to support them instead of just telling them they are breaking the Torah.

"Jewish leaders also ought to get tough on promiscuity," she says. "Jews are not noted for their fidelity to their spouses and that's the root cause of Aids." And she adds, "We shouldn't be afraid to say, 'If you are going to sleep around, at least use a condom.' The situation merits such advice."

Her particular beef on Aids is that the Orthodox community will not take any responsibility for the burial of those of its members who die of the disease.

"The law here states that Aids victims must be cremated, which is of course outlawed by the Orthodox. But I don't see why we should have to take the Orthodox community's dirty work if these victims fall under the

Orthodox aegis," she says.

Neuberger saves her final criticisms for organizations like the Board of Deputies and the Britain-Israel Public Affairs Committee. Referring to the success of these two in having the anti-Zionist play *Perdition* withdrawn, she says this caused "a lot more anti-Semitism than there would have been had it been performed."

This, she says, "an appalling play, vile and wildly inaccurate, and it would have been best to let it go on and quietly fade away. But then, she adds rather sadly, most of the work these institutions do, purportedly on Israel's behalf, "is wrong and counterproductive."

Rather than indulging in an almost maniacal hunt of all things anti-Semitic, she wishes Jewish leaders would speak out boldly against those Jews who give the religion a bad name, "like those ones in the City. After all, honesty is more than just not getting caught with your hands in the till. Judaism demands a high ethical standard, and Jewish leaders in the U.S.—from all branches of the faith—have condemned the insider dealers. The British Jewish community never says anything publicly. It just tries not to rock the boat."

SHE WISHES, too, that the community here would use its resources more to improve ties with sectors of the secular public. To this end, she is currently raising funds and enthusiasm for the North London Hospice Group, and has just heard that it has been awarded a site. Plans for the hospice envisage a 20-bed centre, financed by voluntary contributions from synagogues, churches, mosques, and whoever else chooses to help.

Neuberger drains her coffee cup hurriedly, glances at her watch, and exclaims that she has to rush off now to meet the man from the BBC for a debate to be recorded that afternoon.

Time for just one more question. How does her husband feel about her work? "Well, he was warned that I was going to be a rabbi, and I don't think he minds. He knew what he was letting himself in for."

PASSOVER is nearly upon us and now is the time to begin to prepare for the festive Seder meal as well as the rest of the holiday.

Following are an array of *kasher* *Pessah* recipes, including soup, main courses, side-dishes and salads, which can be prepared with minimal effort in advance so as to save time—and anxiety—when Passover begins.

Chicken Soup
2 kg. chicken
3 litres water
2 carrots, cut up
1/4 kg. celery root or 2 ribs celery with leaves
2 onions, coarsely chopped
1 tbs. chicken powder
1 parsnip, cut up
1 kohlrabi, cut up
200 gm. squash
1 leek

Cut chicken into joints. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Simmer gently in water with vegetables and seasonings. Add more water as required. Cook for one and one half hours.

When chicken is done, strain soup and serve with knaidlach or celestine strips (below).

Traditional Knaidlach
2 glasses matza meal
4 eggs
1 tsp. salt
3/4 cup (8tbs.) oil
1 glass water
1 tbs. chicken soup powder
Mix all ingredients well and refrigerate for four hours.

With damp hands roll into small balls and cook, adding a few at a time into boiling salted water for a half hour. Makes about 12 servings.

Passover Celestine (Noodles)
3 eggs, lightly beaten
1/4 tsp. salt
3 tbs. water
3 tbs. matza meal
1/4 cup chopped parsley
oil for frying

Mix all ingredients well and refrigerate for one hour. Grease 22 1/2 cm. frying pan with oil. Drain off any excess oil.

Measure three tablespoons of the batter and pour into the hot oiled pan. Rotate until batter covers the entire pan. Cook over moderate heat until lightly brown, turn and brown other side.

Proceed this way until batter is used up. Grease pan each time. Cut into 1/2 cm. wide strips. Place in bowl in centre of table.

Citrus Chicken
2 small chickens, quartered
2 lbs. onions
60 gr. margarine
4 slices of smoked breast, fried and crumbled
2 cups chicken stock or water with 2 tsp. chicken soup powder
1 tbs. Worcestershire sauce
1/4 tbs. chili powder
salt and pepper to taste
1 orange
2 grapefruits
100 gr. mushrooms, rinsed and sliced

Melt margarine in frying pan and brown chicken joints on all sides. Place in casserole.

Slice onion, fry in margarine until brown. Add to the casserole the stock, the smoked breast, chili powder, Worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper.

Grate rind, cut away pith, and dice. Stir rind into casserole and bake covered in preheated oven to 350°F, 180°C (Mark 4) for about 45 minutes.

Ten minutes before removing from oven stir in cut up grapefruit and sliced mushrooms.

Russian Jewish Brisket
2 kg. brisket
5 cloves garlic, crushed
salt and pepper to taste
1/2 tsp. paprika

Shabat: Platoon 4:15, 7:30; Sivan: Everything You Wanted to Know About Sex 5:30, 8:45; (excl. Tue.); Tammuz: Hamah-dash: Otto Der Film 9:40; Tchelet: Round Midnight 4:30, 7:30, 9:35; Tel Aviv: Naked Cage 5:15, 8:30; Tel Aviv Museum: Shapolsky at 11:40 Sq.M. Deutschland 7:30, 9:30; Zefarot: Soon reopening with "The Name of the Rose."

HAIFA
Amphitheatro: Ninja, Dragon Fire 4:30, 7:15, 9:15; Armona: No Mercy 4:30, 6:45, 9:15; Azmona 1: Three Amigos 4:30, 7:15, 9:15; Azmona 2: St. Elmo's Fire 4:45, 7:15, 9:30; Azmona 3: Opening Soon; Chen Hameh-dash: Blue Velvet 4:30, 6:45, 9:15; Keren De Hameh-dash: Cal 4:30, 7:15, 9:15; Orsh: Platoon 4:30, 6:30, 8:30; Platoon 7:15; Peer: Crocodile Dundee 4:30, 7:15, 9:15; Rav-Gat 1: The Color of Money 4:15, 8:45, 9:15; Rav-Gat 2: Soul Man 4:30, 7:15, 9:15; Rav-Gat 3: The Color of Money 4:15, 8:45, 9:15; Rav-Gat 4: 30; Rav-Gat 5: 30; Rav-Gat 6: 30; Rav-Gat 7: 30; Rav-Gat 8: 30; Rav-Gat 9: 30; Rav-Gat 10: 30; Rav-Gat 11: 30; Rav-Gat 12: 30; Rav-Gat 13: 30; Rav-Gat 14: 30; Rav-Gat 15: 30; Rav-Gat 16: 30; Rav-Gat 17: 30; Rav-Gat 18: 30; Rav-Gat 19: 30; Rav-Gat 20: 30; Rav-Gat 21: 30; Rav-Gat 22: 30; Rav-Gat 23: 30; Rav-Gat 24: 30; Rav-Gat 25: 30; Rav-Gat 26: 30; Rav-Gat 27: 30; Rav-Gat 28: 30; Rav-Gat 29: 30; Rav-Gat 30: 30; Rav-Gat 31: 30; Rav-Gat 32: 30; Rav-Gat 33: 30; Rav-Gat 34: 30; Rav-Gat 35: 30; 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Credit war sparking Pessah buying boom

By KEN SCHACHTER
For The Jerusalem Post
TEL AVIV. — Pent-up consumer demand has burst into a flurry of pre-holiday shopping, according to the two leading supermarket chains. Supersol Ltd. and the Co-op's Tel Aviv-area chain are locked in a credit war that ignited a wave of buying in recent days. Officials of both companies said sales are running at double normal levels.

Consumers, anticipating a repeat of last year's credit competition, bided their time until the offer was

"One of the reasons that sales were slow two weeks ago is that people were waiting for credit," says a Co-op spokeswoman. "They knew credit was coming."

announced, officials said. The chains are offering virtually identical two-month credit plans, which allow shoppers to stock up at the beginning of April (before Pessah) and pay at the beginning of June (before Shavuot).

To Israeli consumers, who tend to use credit cards for supermarket shopping and who remain attuned to inflationary hedges, the plan is proving hard to resist.

"One of the reasons that sales were slow two weeks ago is that people were waiting for credit," said Hava Geva, spokeswoman for Co-

op. "They knew credit was coming."

Last year, Supersol fired the first salvo in the credit war by initiating a programme similar to the one put in place this year: two month's credit, instead of the usual one month, and no service charge. The only conditions are that shoppers pay with credit cards and make minimum purchases of NIS 50 at Supersol and Hyperco-op (Co-op) stores, and NIS 100 at Supersol (Co-op) and Hyperco-op (Supersol) stores.

The extended credit policy means that the stores are effectively subsidizing the purchase to the tune of about 3 per cent, based on an inflation rate of 20 per cent a year. But Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon has gone on record as opposing extended credit and favouring instead a commensurate reduction in prices. Indeed, the Co-op chain entered the fray last year only grudgingly.

"We followed [Supersol], although we thought it wasn't good," Geva said. "If we want to keep our customers, we have to give them credit also."

But Supersol takes a different attitude. "If it doubles sales, then it's worthwhile," said Mordechai Kreiner, vice president of merchandising for Supersol. "Consumers are happy about it."

The chains both reported that sales were particularly high in kitchen paraphernalia, such as dishes, utensils and pots and pans, which some households traditionally replace during Pessah.

Also in demand are Pessah foods, like matzah and wine. Geva said liquor is usually in high demand as a holiday gift, even though the spirits are hametz.



Discount's Eli Nahamias.



Exchange's Yehuda Casif

EXECUTIVE CHANGES

Banks announce a slew of new appointments

ELI NAHAMIAS began work as manager of Israel Discount Bank's main branch in Tel Aviv, April 1. Nahamias replaces GAD ZILHA, who is retiring.

Nahamias, 52, has held senior positions in the bank and more recently was senior manager of the bank's credit division in charge of credit for big customers.

He is member of the management of the America-Israel Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the board of Discount's Development and Mortgage Bank.

Bank Hapoalim has appointed three new regional directors. SHLOMO HALPERIN was named southern region manager, after serving as Negev area manager for the past several years. He replaces URI MEIR who was appointed manager of Bank Hapoalim in Los Angeles.

GIORA MORAG has been appointed Jerusalem area manager, after spending the past few years as deputy manager of the area. Morag replaces the late SHALOM ZOHAR.

NIMROD BEN-YA'ACOV replaces Halperin as Negev-area manager. Until his appointment Ben-Ya'acov was manager of the business development division of the bank. Before that he was manager of Bank Hapoalim in Uruguay.

YITZHAK ISENBERG, 36, is the new managing director of Pecker Industrial Packing, a Pecker Steel Ltd. subsidiary. Isenberg is a graduate of Ben-Gurion University with a degree in industrial engineering and management. He joined the Pecker group in 1984.

United Mizrahi Bank has made further appointments of its board of directors with YITZHAK YAGAR as chairman. Named to the board were: MICHAEL TZVINKER, the bank's managing director; GURION MELTZAK, chief scientist of Koor Ltd.; HAGAI PINI, financial committee coordinator of the Religious Kibbutz Movement; HAIM KOVRSKI, former director-general of the Interior Ministry; ELIEZER ALTER, accountant and deputy mayor of Haifa; YA'ACOV YANUN, district judge; ELIAHU MIRON, attorney; HAIM NADIV, former Mizrahi chairman and today secretary-general of the Poel Mizrahi Moshav Association; AVRAHAM RAVIVU, Tel Sheva Local Council head; ELIEZER SHAFAR, senior economics lecturer at Hebrew University; YOM-TOV TZEVA, chairman of the board of Israel-American Leasing Ltd.

Mizrahi also gets a new branch manager at its chief branch in Tel Aviv. YA'ACOV TANNENBAUM, 38, replaces ARYE LASEROVITZ, who held the post for the past two years. Tannenbaum has held a variety of positions at Mizrahi, including as manager of some of the bank's biggest branches and is a member of the bank management's marketing and development committee.

The Israel Precious Stones and Diamond Exchange Ltd. has appointed YEHUDA CASIF director-general.

Casif, 40, is a graduate of Tel Aviv University and completed 2 management training courses from Bank Hapoalim. He recently resigned from the IDF, where he held adjutancy and personnel positions.

MIDDLE EAST ECONOMY/ Ya'acov Lamdan

Syria: Short on cash, solutions

Travellers entering Syria through Damascus Airport are greeted these days by a big neon sign notifying them that the Shams Hotel has electricity 24 hours a day. In the limping Syrian economy, where blackouts are a fact of life, a steady supply of power is a bigger selling point than soft mattresses.

Damascus is not wont to discuss its problems in public, but reports from visiting Arab diplomats have made their way into the Arab press, in particular the Saudi weekly *Al Maja*. The paper reports that two economic related issues have preoccupied the Syrian press in recent weeks.

The first is the government's vow to keep the country independent and steer clear of foreign pressures that might compromise it. Those foreign pressures are alleged to come from Britain, which cut ties with Syria last year, after Damascus was linked with the attempted bombing of an El Al jet flying out of London. Foreign banks that have been less than enthusiastic about lending to the heavily indebted Syrians pose the second challenge to Syrian autonomy, according to the local press.

Syria's debts have reached \$13 billion, most of them obligations to communist countries of Eastern Europe. About \$3b is owed to the West. The wealthier Arab states constitute Damascus's chief source of foreign aid.

This Arab assistance is predicated

on Syria's role as a vanguard in the fight against Israel, a role Damascus counted on to earn it some \$1.8 billion a year in grants. But the world petroleum glut, which brought oil prices to as low as \$9 a barrel last year, meant that the Arab states could only pony up some \$450 million. Moreover, the Arabs' commitment to support Iraq — which is acting as vanguard against a more serious and immediate enemy, Iran — meant there was less for Syria.

As a result, the Syrian government was forced to make drastic cuts in imports last year, including greatly needed raw materials and basic products.

Foreign currency reserves at one point reached the dangerously low point of \$100m., enough only to import vital products for one week. In desperation, President Hafez Assad issued a series of presidential orders to get the situation under control. The most important was to devalue the Syrian pound to one fifth its previous value, roughly bringing it in line with its black market price. The dollar, which once could buy five Syrian pounds, now could buy 23.

Assad also allowed non-Syrian Arabs and other foreigners to open foreign currency accounts in Syrian banks, and most importantly, allowed Syrian importers to use foreign currency — which entailed placing it in the bank — without being asked about the source of the money.

But these reforms have yet to prove successful. Importers feared that when things got better the government would confiscate their hard currency and thus refused to take up Assad's generous offer. Foreign investors were hesitant to invest in Syria knowing that only Syrian army officers are granted import licences. In the meantime, the dollar has risen to 35-40 pounds on the black market.

The devaluation of the Lebanese pound also added to Syria's economic troubles. Refrigerators imported through Lebanon that cost 1,500-1,700 pounds jumped to 10,000-12,600 pounds, equivalent to an average Syrian worker's annual salary. The same increases were seen in auto parts, and other imported goods including coffee.

Despite cheap oil from Iran, electricity is in short supply, as is water. Both are often shut off for hours at a time, especially during the evening.

Worried about popular discontent, the government has sought to focus public ire on bribery and corruption among leading officials. An advertising campaign launched by the government not too long ago has targeted a wide range of officials, except, of course, the president himself.

For Israel, Syria's woes have had some positive consequences: Assad has had to cut his rhetoric about achieving a strategic balance with Israel.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Gov't denies it forced Shahaf closure

TEL AVIV. — Wednesday's decision to close Shahaf Air Services was made by its management and not the Transport Ministry or the Civil Aviation Administration (CAA), the ministry said Thursday.

Shahaf General Manager Yossi Hadari grounded the airline's 11 planes and fired 45 employees on Wednesday because the CAA would not renew Shahaf's operating licence, which expired on March 31. CAA head Shai Shohami said he had no choice since an interim injunction handed down by the High Court of Justice prevented him from discussing the renewal with the company and thus from taking action.

Hadari, who in the past has accused Shohami of discriminating against Shahaf in favour of state-owned Arkia, petitioned the High Court to disqualify Shohami from dealing with any issue concerning Shahaf. The primary point of conflict was the CAA's refusal to permit Shahaf to run regularly scheduled flights between Tel Aviv and Eilat.

DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER

Adi Amori Thursday predicted that Israel's gross national product would increase 3 per cent this year, with most of the growth derived from exports. Speaking before a meeting of the Israel-Sweden Chamber of Commerce, Amori also said that barring sharp rises in salaries, he expected the 1987 inflation rate to fall below the 1986 figure of 20 per cent.

RESHEF COMPUTERS LTD., a software developer and authorized IBM dealer, is planning to issue shares for the first time on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

The company has submitted a draft financial forecast for review by the exchange's directorate, said Hana Shachaf, Reshef co-manager, but refuses to disclose the size of the offering until it is approved. Reshef was established three years ago in Beersheba as a home computer retail store. It specializes in developing and marketing word processing programs, electronic mail and paperless office data base packages. It had \$14 million in revenues in 1986.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL BANK has entered the bank credit war with its own low-interest loan scheme. Account holders keeping deposits as

little as NIS 5,000 are eligible to take loans for a sum equal to their deposits at 5 per cent, linked to the cost-of-living index.

The Oz-Tsua programme, as First International calls it, offers account holders 3.5 per cent interest on their savings over two years. If they exercise the loan option. Those who don't get 4.5 per cent.

INCOMING TOURISM to Israel through the third week of March almost approached 1985's record levels. The Tourism Ministry reported this week.

Not counting arrivals to Eilat or tourists who entered the country briefly during cruises, some 112,000 tourists entered Israel in the first three weeks of March, compared with 101,600 a year earlier and 120,000 in March 1985. The ministry noted, however, that the 1985 figure was boosted by Pessah tourism, which does not begin until April this year.

Some 61,800 tourists visited Israel in January, and 70,900 in February, up from 59,100 and 65,900, respectively, a year ago. By comparison, 64,500 tourists entered the country in January 1985 and 76,600 the following month.

Tourism to Eilat showed even sharper improvement. Some 17,000 arrived in the first three weeks of March, compared with 11,000 a year ago and 7,500 in March 1985.



GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Kiryat Moshe, 1 Kiryat Moshe, 528135; Baitan, 528135; Shu'afat, Shu'afat Road, 810108; Dar Al-Awda, Herod's Gate, 282058; Tel Aviv: Dizengoff, 132 Dizengoff, 223380; Kupat Holim Me'acbi, 25 King George, 284050; Ramat Gan: Kfar Sava: Kinneret, 5 Weizmann, Kfar Sava; Netanya: Kupat Holim Clalit, 31 Brodetsky, 91123; Krayot: Hertz, Herman, Simat Medlin, Kiryat Motzkin, 715136; Hertz: Yavna, 7 Ibn Sina, 572288.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Karem (pediatrics, ophthalmology, E.N.T.), Sheara Zedek (internal, obstetrics, orthopedics, Bilur Holim (surgery); Tel Aviv: Rokeh (pediatrics), Ichilov (internal, surgery); Netanya: Laniado

POLICE 100

Dial 100 in most parts of the country. In Tiberias dial 524444, Kiryat Shmona 4444.

FIRE 102

In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, dial number of your local station as given in the front of the phone directory.

FLIGHTS

24 — Hours Flight Information Services: Call 03-09712484 (multi-line), Arrivals Only (Taped Message) 03-381111 (20 lines)

FIRST AID 101

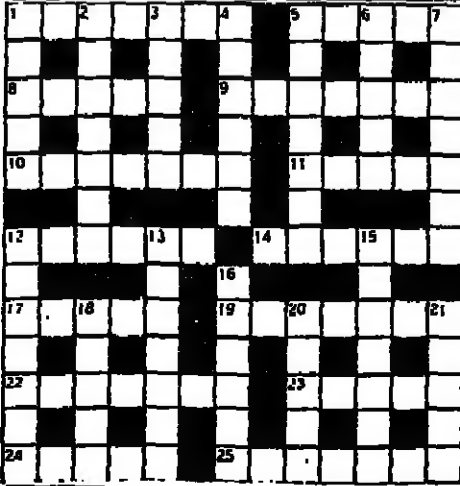
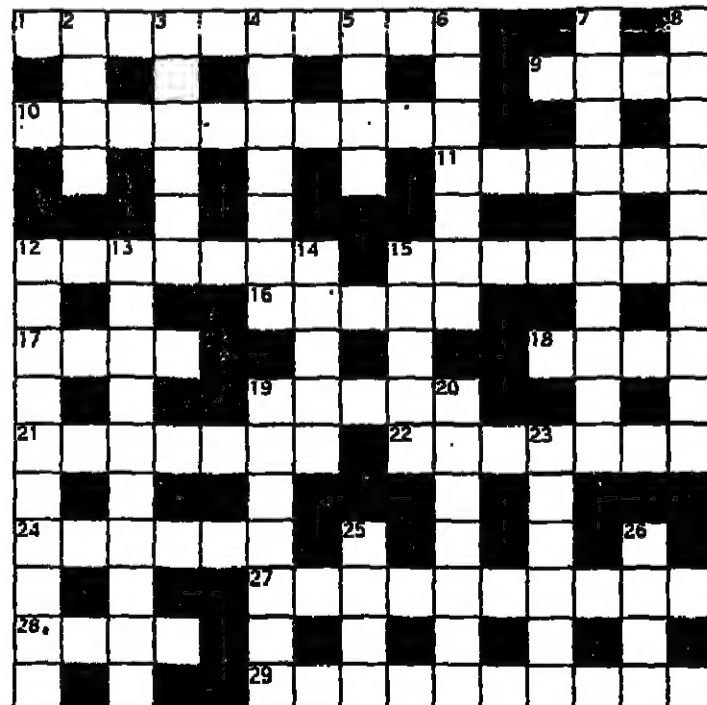
Magen David Adom In emergencies dial 101 in most parts of the country. In addition: Ashdod 41333 Jerusalem 523133 Ashkelon 23333 Kiryat Shmona 4444 Bat Yam 5231111 Kiryat Shmona 4444 Beersheba 74767 Netanya 52333 Carmiel 56855 Netanya 52333 Dan Region 781111 Petah Tikva 5221111 Eilat 7233 Rehovot 481333 Hadera 22333 Ra'anana 52333 Haifa 51223 Safed 30333 Hatzor 35333 Tel Aviv 240111 Holon 803133 Tiberias 50111

* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock. Erez — Emotional First Aid. Tel. Jerusalem 227771, Tel. Aviv 261111 (Ichilov) youth 03-261113, Haifa 672222, Beersheba 418111, Netanya 55316 Carmiel and the north 04-528610. Rape Crisis Centre (24 hours), for help call Tel. Aviv, 238819, Jerusalem — 248854, and Haifa 382611. The National Poison Control Centre at Rambam Hospital, phone 04 528205, for emergency calls, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning. Kupat Holim Information Centre Tel. 03-433300, 433500 Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CROSSWORD

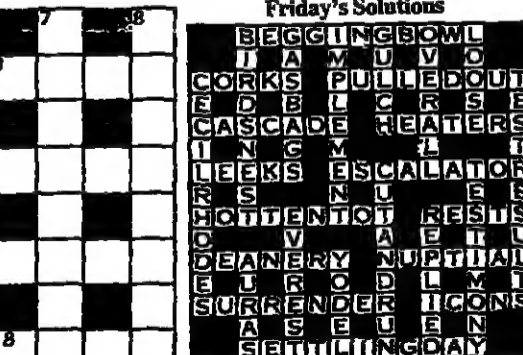
ACROSS

- 1 The third R in "curricularity" (10)
- 9 Not for a confused mit (4)
- 10 "The Strangler's Thread" (6,4)
- 11 Leaf is arranged in episodes it would seem (6)
- 12 An arresting document, but sheer jingoism (7)
- 13 Nightcap for a rowdy horse (7)
- 16 Mean drunk? (5)
- 17 Illingworth's gleaming beams (4)
- 18 Still eager despite a broken knee (4)
- 19 The arts centre is the centre (5)



DOWN

- 21 Drew about everything so that the accounts balanced (7)
- 22 One who cares for others' interests (7)
- 23 Take exception to the second note despatched (6)
- 27 Clothing jumble in out house (10)
- 28 Also involved in South East Asia (4)
- 29 Treat lease reapplication for houses and land (4,5)
- 2 Our misplaced kiss is a saucy start (4)
- 3 Famous air marshal who made hay (6)
- 4 Grace has modern fashion to a T (7)
- 5 Amphibian extant until the end of BC1 (4)
- 6 Agree on scattering scent about (7)



QUICK CROSSWORD

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Launches assault | 1 Book of maps |
| 3 Place of refuge | 2 Excursionist |
| 5 Scottish landlord | 3 Nucleus of key persons |
| 9 Train of followers | 4 Nymph |
| 10 Feigning wisdom | 5 Uriah's nationality |
| 11 Perfect | 6 Rendezvous |
| 12 Satirical composition | 7 Irritated |
| 14 Brought up | 12 Well liked |
| 17 Quiz team | 13 A duce |
| 19 Unfounded reports | 15 Join again |
| 22 Impedimenta | 16 Heraldic silver |
| 23 Muddy ooze | 18 Hours of darkness |
| 24 Estimated | 20 Unstable nuclear particle |
| 25 Trigonometric ratio | 21 Exhausted |

us Festival

Conductor/planist
8.30 p.m. (Amadeus Series N. 1000)

*
For
no
987, 8.30 p.m.
30 p.m.
1.8.1987, 8.30 p.m.

Thursday, April 9, 1987, 8.30 p.m.

Spring Amadeus Festival, Yoav
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SOCCER REVIEW

One leader and 15 also-rans

By YORAM KESSEL

Can anything save the rest of the season? The National League certainly needs a major shot-in-the-arm to keep attracting attention for the remaining seven weeks it has to run.

The top of the table, long a two-horse race, has now become a one-and-a-quarter-horse affair, while the relegation issue seems confined to three lame skeletal horses who are all resigned to accept relegation. Yavne, now third last, are six points adrift from the safe zone.

Local fans are somewhat fickle. It is not so much that they are fair-weather friends, who only support winning teams, although loyalty is not the strongest Israeli sporting emotion. But our fans refuse to watch games that have no bearing on the league.

That was very much the order of things yesterday afternoon, where the only two decent turn-outs were at Kfar Sava, for what had promised to be an intriguing top-of-the-table clash between the local Hapoel and title-chasing Bnei Yehuda, and at Jaffa, for the top vs tail encounter between Maccabi Jaffa and Betar Jerusalem.

Quite frankly, judging by the way the players have been performing on the pitch for the past two weekends, the fans have a point. Only one goal more than last week's paltry pickings of 11 goals was scored yesterday in the eight National League games. The thoroughbreds, however, were few and far between.

Coming closest to such an accolade were Betar Jerusalem, who must now be breathing a little more easily after their unconvincing results of the past month. Yesterday, they were still not canting with the comfort and class that they had shown in the first half of the season when they built up a commanding lead. But, fortunately, for them, their hosts at the Gaon Stadium were really as hospitable as they were sub-standard from a soccer point of view.

For the previous 725 minutes on various fields, Uri Malmilian has been failing to use his normally ferocious shooting boots. Yesterday he was given a fine opportunity to do so when the game was only five minutes old, as Shlomo Shirazi was hacked down during one of his foraging runs into the penalty area. The maestro made no mistake with the spot kick.

Malmilian provided the one truly memorable moment of the day, a



LETHAL. — Maestro Uri Malmilian put on his shooting-boots again yesterday.

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
Mac. Netanya	(112 Mac. Yavne			
Tikva, 18				
Haifa, 72				
Mac. Tel Aviv				
Hap. Tel Aviv				
Hap. Kfar Sava				
Hap. Beer Sheva	(111	8 Hap. P. Tikva		
Hayun, 24		0 Mac. P. Tikva		
Mac. Jaffa		Raff Cohen		
Amiga, 72 (pen)	(01	8 Bnei Yehuda		
		0 Mac. Haifa		
		(01	Betar Jerusalem	
			Maccabi, 15	
			Malen, 15	
			Cochran, 54	
			Galilee, 15	
Hap. Lod				
Mac. Netanya	(01	8 Tel. Avi		
Asaria, 69		Nissim Cohen		
		David Levi,		
STANDINGS				
After 23 rounds				
		W	D	L
1. Bet Plem		14	8	1
2. Bnei Yehuda		10	13	—
3. Mac. Netanya		9	10	—
4. Mac. TA		9	9	5
5. Shimon		7	14	2
6. Mac. Jaffa		7	10	7
7. Kfar Sava		8	9	6
8. Hap. Lod		6	9	9
9. Mac. Haifa		7	7	7
10. Hap. Tel		7	7	7
11. Hap. TA		5	12	6
12. Betar		7	7	7
13. Bet TA		5	9	9
14. Yavne		3	11	11
15. Jaffa		3	11	11
16. Sct Netanya		2	—	20

SOCCER ROUND UP

SECOND DIVISION										
Hapoel R. G.	2 Bet. Netanya	0								
Mac. R. Amida	2 Bet. Ramla	0								
Hap. Jerusalem	1 Hap. Marmorek	0								
Hap. Haifa	5 Hap. Dimona	2								
Hap. Acre	2 Hap. Yehud	0								
Hap. Tiberias	2 Hap. Shimon	1								
Mac. Sha'arayim	0 Hap. R. Gan	1								
Hap. Holon	5 Hap. Hadera	1								

STANDINGS										
After 23 rounds	W	D	L	F	A	Pts				
1. Bet. Netanya	10	1	1	28	12	30				
2. Bnei Yehuda	10	1	1	28	12	30				
3. Mac. Netanya	9	7	6	26	23	27				
4. Mac. Tel Aviv	9	7	6	26	23	27				
5. Shimon	9	7	6	26	23	27				
6. Mac. P. Tikva	9	7	6	26	23	27				
7. Kfar Sava	8	9	6	22	15	25				
8. Hap. Beer Sheva	8	9	6	22	15	25				
9. Hap. Lod	8	9	6	22	15	25				
10. Hap. Haifa	7	7	9	24	19	20				
11. Hap. P. Tikva	7	7	9	24	19	20				
12. Bnei Yehuda	5	12	6	17	27	17				
13. Mac. Haifa	5	11	7	14	26	16				
14. Bet. Tel Aviv	4	9	11	15	28	15				
15. Yavne	3	9	11	15	28	15				
16. Jaffa	2	8	13	14	34	14				
17. Bet. Netanya	2	1	20	12	69	7				

After 23 rounds

STANDINGS										
After 23 rounds	W	D	L	F	A	Pts				
1. Hap. Haifa	12	7	4	34	16	43				
2. Hap. P. Tikva	12	5	6	28	20	41				
3. Hap. Beer Sheva	10	8	5	28	13	38				
4. Hap. Beer Sheva	10	7	6	30	28	37				
5. Asaria	10	7	6	30	28	37				
6. Acre	8	6	9	26	32	30				
7. Yehud	8	6	9	26	32	30				
8. Bet. Sheva	7	12	4	24	23	30				
9. Sha'arayim	7	10	6	21	31	31				
10. Tiberias	4	10	19	27	51	17				
11. Hap. R. G.	3	12	8	15	35	12				
12. Hapoel R. G.	3	7	10	14	21	25				
13. Marmorek	3	6	11	24	31	24				
14. Ramla	3	6	11	24	31	24				
15. Netanya	3	6	11	24	31	24				
16. Dimona	3	7	13	17	35	16				

After 23 rounds

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magnificent piledriving third goal just after the half-hour, as he finished off a splendid move initiated by Avi Cohen, who, together with Shirazi, was the key to Betar's continuous pressure on the hapless Jaffa defence.

In between Malmilian's 13th and 14th goals (which put him two clear at the top of the scorers' table) Sami Malca notched his 10th of the season, and Avi Golder grabbed the fourth, before David Amiga got Jaffa's face-saver from a penalty. Indeed, had Eli Ohana donned his scoring boots, Betar's all-round domination might have been translated into a basketball score.

Bnei Yehuda's young forwards seemed to fall victims of the pressure of trying too hard in the pursuit of Betar, and Bnei Yehuda could only draw 0.0 with Kfar Sava. On the few occasions that these forwards troubled the Kfar Sava defence, they found Adir Shamir in solid form in the home goal. Dropping two more points behind Betar mars the satisfaction they must feel because of their setting a remarkable new record in the league — 23 consecutive league games without a defeat this season.

Maccabi Netanya, who have climbed from 14th place in the league to third, have amassed 24 out of a possible 30 points and have now extended their unbeaten run to ten games.

At least there were several exciting moments in the Bnei Yehuda-Kfar Sava game for the biggest crowd of the day, 7,000, which is more than can be said of the two other blank scorers — at Lod and Bloomfield where Maccabi Tel Aviv's attempt to reach the top has now capitulated completely.

Two more games would have been happy with even a single point rather than the lumbago of defeat that they sustained. First, Maccabi Haifa went down in Beer Sheva, where national ace Avi Rana was again at fault in misjudging a departure from his line for a Yavne corner, which Avi Rana headed strongly home. What is remarkable is that the much-vaunted Haifa attack has been capable of scoring only 24 goals all season — and eight of them have been in one game against Betar Netanya.

Then, Hapoel Tel Aviv were defeated yet again yesterday, when they failed to translate total superiority for much of the match into tangible results. Maccabi Pe'el Tel Aviv's Rafi Cohen 64th minute header sank the champions' last chance of appearing in the summer Inter-club competition, because they have dropped to below eighth spot in this season's table (they are in fact 12th), Israel will be represented by the two top teams, Betar and Bnei Yehuda. Their misery complete, Hapoel have in fact now won only one game against Betar Netanya.

Mac. Netanya have earned the ignominy of equalling the "record" set since 1954 by Hapoel Be'er Sheva of losing 11 successive league games.



IT'S AN ILL WIND. — While Maccabi Tel Aviv players and fans descended into the deepest gloom, Tracer fans poured onto the court in Lausanne to celebrate with their team. In Milan, hundreds of jubilant fans waving flags and blowing trumpets drove into the heart of the city in long processions and blocked the area around the famous cathedral.

BASKETBALL

Post-mortem on a nightmare

By DON GOULD

It wasn't a pretty game. Nor was it the kind of game that Maccabi Tel Aviv are used to playing, nor for that matter, was it the kind of game that Maccabi Tel Aviv fans are used to watching. The fact is that it was very much the kind of match that typifies the finals of the today's high level basketball championships.

Watching last Thursday's European Cup was in many ways a frustrating experience. The tenseness of all the players was evident from the moment the opening whistle blew. Neither team seemed able to get off the mark. Tracer and Maccabi were missing shots with a greater frequency than they were able to make them. Tracer from the beginning never really wanted to run, and Maccabi only infrequently showed any evidence of their own run-and-gun style.

The game was fought instead in the trenches. The pushings and shoving underneath the baskets approached the point of being almost vicious. Kevin Magee's injured foot didn't help. He wasn't as mobile as he usually is. Lee Johnson,

Howie Lassoff and Greg Cornelius took turns along with Magee in the battle against Tracer's Dino Meneghin, Ken Barlow and Bob Macdonald. The Polish and Greek referees, particularly in the first half, seemed content to let the game develop into a slow-paced battle. Lee Johnson and Kevin Magee had a wretched first half. The only bright spot in that half was Doron Jamcee's outside shooting. He scored 12 of his 15 points before the interval. Although Johnson and Magee came on much stronger in the second half, the total effort fell just short.

When a team loses by just two points as Maccabi did, there is a tendency to mull over everything that happened, and to consider what slight change could have been made to reverse the outcome.

Surely, if Maccabi, down by two with sixteen seconds left on the game clock, could have worked a decent play to get off a proper shot, they would have had a good chance to either tie or win the game? They did try, but Tracer's defence stiffened and all that was left was for Doron

Jamee to throw up a prayer instead of a shot from so far out that he probably could barely see the basket.

Surely, if Kevin Magee didn't have to play injured, he would have been worth more than 15 points and certainly many more rebounds.

It is possible to go on and on, thinking of what might have been. If one has to be singled out, Maccabi Tel Aviv tossed away the European Cup at the foul line. A good quality team should be able to convert at least 75 per cent of their foul shots. Maccabi, in fact, usually do. Last Thursday they went below 60 per cent. That was the one key factor that made the difference. Lee Johnson, usually so accurate from the foul line, had a dreadful time.

Yet the team deserve all the plaudits that can be heaped upon them for fighting their way back from adversity all season long. Although they didn't make it all the way, two points from the top is still something of which to be proud. They and their loyal fans still have every right to hold their heads high.

ENGLISH SOCCER

LONDON (Reuters). — Everton: replaced Liverpool as leaders of the English soccer First Division yesterday when they ended Chelsea's run of four victories by beating them 2-1 on their own ground.

With the defending champions out of action because they meet Arsenal in the Football League Cup final today, Everton took advantage of the chance to regain the initiative in the championship race, but were forced to dig into their reserves of character and determination to do it. Central defender Dave Watson put Everton in command with a 23rd minute opening goal, but Chelsea fought back to equalize through former Everton striker Kerry Dixon in the 73rd minute.

Everton, with influential midfielder Kevin Shedy back in the team after recovering from a cartilage operation, were shaken, but regained the lead within five minutes through utility player Alan Harper. Then they hung on to take all three points.

Victory lifted Everton level with Liverpool on 67 points. Their superior goal difference puts them narrowly ahead of their city rivals in the

Everton leapfrog over Liverpool

title chase, but they also have a game in hand.

Tottenham, with four matches to hand on Liverpool and two on Everton, made the most of their chance to make up ground on the leaders by crushing Norwich 3-0.

Division One

Acton Villa	4	Manchester C	0
Charlton	4	Watford	0
Chelsea	1	Everton	2
Luton	0	Wimbledon	0
Manchester U	3	Oldham	0
Middlesbrough	2	Leicester	0
Nottingham	0	Coventry	0
Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Wed	0
Southampton	2	Norwich	0
West Ham	3	Arsenal	0

Profile striker Clive Allen, who had failed to score in his four previous matches, hit a double in 11 minutes — the goals coming after 75, 81 and 86 minutes — as Norwich's suburban run of 15 league games came to a resounding end.

The next exciting matches of the afternoon were at Charlton, where the relegation-

Division Two

Grimsby	0	Crystal P	1	0
Inverclyde	0	Derby	1	2
Leeds	0	Griffith	1	0
Oldham	2	Birmingham	0	2
Plymouth	3	Sarsbury	1	0
Sheffield U	4	Blackburn	1	0
Sheff Wed	1	Hull	1	0
WBA	4	Southend	2	1

Derby C	P	W	D	R	B	SA	Pts
Portsmouth	36	20	8	6	53	20	60
Oldham A	38	9	0	0	57	33	33
Oldham A	34	19	0	5	56	33	55
Inverclyde	35	18	10	8	53	33	55
Crystal P	34	19	10	5	47	45	54
Sheff Wed	35	17	3	12	50	40	48
Sheff U	34	13	3	18	40	40	48
Sheff U	35	12	11	12	44	44	47
Sheff Wed	35	15	10	10	44	44	47
Millwall	34	12	7	15	33	35	43
Reading	35	12	7	14	44	40	43
Sheff Wed	35	12	12	13	33	35	42
Grimsby	35	12	13	13	36	36	42
Sheff Wed	34	11	10	13	33	40	40
WBA	34	10	10	14	36	40	40
Sheff Wed	34	10	10	14	36	40	40
Sheff Wed	34	9	11	14	44	38	38
Huddersfield	34	9	16	14	44	38	38
Sheff Wed	33	9	16	14	29	37	37
Hull	33	9	16	14	44	37	37
Sheff Wed	33	9	16	14	29	37	37

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Washington can wait

INCREDIBLE, but true, the Likud and Labour, or more specifically, Mr. Shamir and Mr. Peres, six months after their rotation, have not yet been able to agree on who should be named Israel's new ambassador in Washington.

Israel's most important diplomatic posting, now made even more pivotal by the recent series of collisions with official Washington - the Pollard affair, Iranagate and South Africa - has fallen victim to partisan considerations that have no bearing on the national interest. Mr. Peres proposes and Mr. Shamir disposes.

Theoretically, the easy way out of the impasse would be simply to extend the term of the incumbent Ambassador Meir Rosenne. But he does not sit well with the Peres camp, and the foreign minister, who as prime minister suffered what he considered to be a Likud-leaning embassy, now wants his "own" man installed.

Mr. Rosenne has, therefore, been placed in a wholly untenable position. Not only is he a lame-duck envoy when the waters are particularly hot, but he has been subject to erratic instructions extending his duties confusedly by weeks at a time. No ambassador, and certainly not an envoy as heavily scheduled as must be Israel's ambassador in the U.S. capital, can function effectively in such circumstances.

Unfortunately, this cavalier treatment of the envoy in Washington represents a deeper malaise that has set in at the foreign ministry under Mr. Peres. He is a foreign minister who entered office with little appreciation for the cadre of professional diplomats placed at his disposal. Perhaps it is an attitude nourished by his many years at the defence ministry. Whatever its origins, it was quickly felt.

Instead of calling on the diplomatic instrument awaiting him, Mr. Peres surrounded himself with aides that served him as premier, and, of course, complicated matters further by naming two directors general.

The result is that there is a foreign ministry and diplomatic bureaucracy that goes through the motions, but is effectively held at arms length from the minister and his close advisers.

There are many precedents in Israel and elsewhere for personal diplomacy alienated from the executive department designed to serve the policy-maker. The record of those precedents is mixed. But where it worked, it did so only where the policy maker, whether as head of government or foreign minister, was in effective command of the whole gamut of foreign policy.

That is not Mr. Peres's situation. He is foreign minister in a national unity government. His personal diplomacy ends where Mr. Shamir's involvement begins. Ignoring the diplomatic establishment in that situation does more than sap the spirit of the professionals. It breeds disorder, suspicion and conflict in government.

Since Israel's decision-making process is in any case prone to disarray, Mr. Peres's penchant to detour round the diplomats only adds to the jumble.

But as with so many other maladies that afflict the present government, this one too is not given to repair. In the meantime, it seems, Washington can wait.

POLLARD

(Continued from Page One)

sciences at New York University.

After casually informing Pollard of this "brilliant" Israeli pilot who had told the story of the Israeli air strike on the Iraqi nuclear reactor at Osirak in June 1981, the U.S. naval intelligence analyst is said to have asked Stern to introduce him to Sella. Stern has insisted that he made the introduction, but claims that he was unaware of the subsequent espionage operation.

Stern, who has cooperated with the U.S. investigation, has not been indicted as a suspect in the case even though law-enforcement authorities do not necessarily believe that he was unaware that Pollard had made classified documents available to his Israeli "handlers" during an 18-month period. Pollard was eventually arrested on November 21, 1985, after unsuccessfully attempting to gain admission into the Israeli embassy in Washington.

Some U.S. sources have suggested that Stern may have been granted

immunity from prosecution in exchange for his testimony against Pollard and Sella. Stern has declined to discuss publicly his role in the affair - other than to insist that he did nothing wrong.

Yediot Ahronot reported on Friday that Pollard's unnamed "friend" - a stockbroker who introduced him to Sella - may yet be indicted, but this could not be confirmed in Washington.

Meanwhile, the Washington Post reported on Friday that the U.S. had seized four U.S. bank accounts belonging to Harold Katz, an American lawyer suspected of playing a role in the Pollard affair, in an apparent attempt to force him to testify.

Katz, who has lived in Israel since 1972 and has dual U.S.-Israeli citizenship, has been barred by the Israel Defence Ministry from travelling to Washington to testify before a grand jury. In a statement released last Thursday, Katz denied any wrongdoing, insisting he "had no part in the Pollard operation."

HERZOG

(Continued from Page One)

history. These Germans will surely be gratified by Herzog's visit, and why shouldn't they be? It is the fruit of their labour, which in some cases has been going on for decades.

It may also be claimed that Israel's leaders are obliged to safeguard the country's political interests, which can be expected to benefit from good relations with Germany. Moreover, after von Weizsaecker's visit to Israel, a visit by an Israeli president to Germany was, for all practical purposes, only to be expected.

But no one is forgetting that this is a very special visit.

For the first time, the German president is to accompany a foreign head of state on all his travels in the country: to the site of the death camp of Bergen-Belsen; to the city of Worms; and to West Berlin. This is certainly an unusual expression of respect.

One may wonder whether Herzog would have come to Germany at all if his host were not Richard von Weizsaecker, who, in addition to being the head of state, is also a leading moral figure. He has consistently called on the Germans to accept their historical responsibility for the Nazi era.

The question is, will Herzog's visit herald a new chapter also in political relations between the two countries. As von Weizsaecker himself has pointed out, presidential visits do not deal with practical details.

Whatever impression Herzog creates in Germany could serve as a basis for future day-to-day politics. But it can be safely said that any change in German-Israeli relations

will depend on Israel rather than on Germany.

There is not much that West Germany can ask from Israel in the concrete political sphere. The Federal Republic does not need Israeli support in the international arena; a small country like Israel is of no economic importance to the German economic giant; and, as far as Middle East policy is concerned, Germany does not have superpower or ethnic interests in the area. It simply hopes that there will be no major war, which could damage European interests, and it would certainly be happy to see peace in the area. It is perhaps a sad irony of history, and a cold fact of politics, that Israel needs Germany more than vice versa. This is not to say that Herzog's visit should be followed by a vigorous Israeli drive for a new chapter in relations. That judgement entails both pragmatism and principles and should be left to the Israeli public and leadership.

Herzog's visit will make major headlines for a few days in Germany. It is likely to elicit not only sympathy but also, from some quarters, a demand that history be laid to rest. Such demands have been made during the German public debate of recent years, and even people like von Weizsaecker have not been able to win over those who advocate that the Holocaust be forgotten.

Germany is accustomed to prominent, even exotic, visitors from all over the world. But making news does not necessarily mean that there will be an impact on public opinion.

In any case, the emotional impact of Herzog's visit is likely to be felt more in Israel than in Germany.

PROFESSOR Avineri's view of American Jews, labelling them with a *galut* (shut) mentality has brought forth criticism both in Israel and in the United States. The Jerusalem Post should be congratulated on bringing the debate into the open. But behind all this stands the still unsolved issue - with us since Ben-Gurion's time of American and Russian Jews settling in Israel. By now we should have learned, if ever we will, that no argument, Zionist appeal, philosophy of the negation of exile, or threats of impending doom will bring Jews to Israel. Again we delude ourselves by pointing disdainfully at the fleshpots of America and sigh with self-righteousness that we can't ever compete materially, to say nothing of our unstable security situation.

Immediately after the Six Day War, Israel became a powerful magnet to Jews all over the world. Thousands of American Jews came to Israel, but alas, as many as 50 percent went "back home" once the euphoria had waned. Hubris and an all-pervading megalomania spoiled our real achievements. There is reason to believe that immigration would have grown and hundreds, perhaps thousands of Jews would have built themselves a second home in Israel. Not only that. Investments, as well as donations, could have flown into the Israeli economy. But this, too, we spoiled, with our pernicious bureaucracy, for investors and immigrants alike. Releasing a car or a parcel from customs is still the same hell it was thirty years ago. Relate this to immigration from the Soviet Union. Again we seem to

have learnt nothing. Instead of slogging it out with America, demanding the cancellation of U.S. refugee status for Soviet Jewish immigrants, and pounding the tables at the President's Conference, we should first take a close look at ourselves.

I REMEMBER rather vividly my conversation with a new immigrant from Russia in 1968. I tried to cheer him up. "Here in Israel you can swear at the prime minister and nothing will happen to you." "And what does that help me?" he replied. "When I have to walk the streets of Tel Aviv trying in vain to raise 10 percent deposit for my flat without which I can't get a mortgage." In the same year Prime Minister Levi Eshkol tried to establish a uniform authority for immigration. This resulted in the establishment of yet another body dealing with immigrants, namely the Ministry of Absorption parallel to the Immigration Department of the Jewish Agency. To this day both exist and often fight in public. And now we see still another attempt to settle the dispute. The Horev Committee was set up with a view to streamlining immigrant procedures, but its findings were never acted upon. So is there an answer to this tale of

poed being preoccupied with the intricacies of Halacha long enough to even consider the prophets? Yet, Rabbi Carmell seems to think that only the Orthodox have the true Judaism. Like him, I experience a sinking feeling of *deja vu* when I think that "we shall have to go through the whole process yet again."

THE CLAIM that Orthodox Judaism today shows "a vibrant, confident upsurge," deserves closer scrutiny. If there is such an upsurge, perhaps it is not because Orthodox has gotten any better since the 1890s at explaining and coping with the human dilemma, but because a generation of Jews has grown up in the kind of unprecedented security and comfort that does not prompt se-

Is this "lip service?" When was the last time the Israeli rabbinate stop-

READERS' LETTERS

THE CULT OF AWARENESS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - I was taken back to read of the setting up by the United Kibbutz Movement of a "Department for Drugs, Cults, Alcohol and Hazara Beshuva" ("The Cult of Awareness," March 15). To categorize those who decide to leave the kibbutz for a life of Jewish tradition and observance, together with drug addicts, alcoholics and cultists is as much an insult to traditional Jews as it is to returnees to Judaism.

Frances Yoeli, the department's coordinator and author of the article is concerned about possible yereda by those involved in what she calls "cultic spiritualism." But she expresses no concern for the yereda and intermarriage resulting from the kibbutz programme of promoting young overseas "volunteers" - to work on the kibbutzim - so that kibbutz members can live more comfortably.

Apparently, the yereda of many kibbutzniks to Scandinavia and Germany following intermarriage with Christian kibbutz volunteers is not important enough a reason for a special department. As Ms. Yoeli must surely know, yereda by *hozim beshuva* is virtually non-existent.

A Haifa University survey of 137 kibbutzim published last year in the Kibbutz Arzi weekly *Hahavara* (see "Marriage with kibbutz volunteers increasing," April 20, 1986) found that apart from the many kibbutzniks who intermarry and leave Israel as a result of the "volunteers" programme sponsored by the kibbutzim, 739 mixed couples, with 1,200 children of the mixed marriages, live on the kibbutzim. Many of these children are receiving a Christian education.

For all of the genuine contributions the kibbutz may have made to our country, kibbutz leaders should face the fact squarely and honestly that many of their youngsters, although born and educated in the "socialist" outlook of the kibbutz and bred from infancy on a diet of pervasive anti-religiousness, yearn for a return to their Jewish roots; to the normative Jewish practice which their grandfathers, who founded the kibbutzim, rejected.

If this comes as a shock to the leaders of the kibbutz it may be understandable. However, treating the phenomenon of return to Juda-

ism as if it was a cult, or as a social aberration in the order of alcoholism or drug addiction is adding insult to injury - and it is certainly not going to solve the real problem the kibbutz has: the alienation of many of its young from the lack of spiritual values they perceive as characterizing the kibbutz.

MICHAEL KANIEL
Jerusalem

Sir, - Ms. Yoeli's article on "cults" casts grave doubts regarding exactly what kind of counselling the United Kibbutz Movement is getting as regards "cults." The attempt made by the writer to bundle all the different groups together is misleading.

The Transcendental Meditation technique has been taught in Israel to over 40,000 people in the last 20 years. These people came from all ways of life, from all parts of society and continue to lead active and fruitful lives in their respective occupations. Not exactly the miserable victims of some terrible fraud, as Ms. Yoeli implies.

As any mediator will tell you, TM is not a hypnotic technique and there is no loss of awareness at any stage.

EYLON MEROZ
The International Meditation Society of Israel
Jerusalem

Sir, - I have, over the years, become somewhat of a specialist in the cult argument. My research has been catholic and first hand, with particular stress on the "New Age" cults (TM, gurus of sorts, Scientology, etc.). Without exception, they were founded by charlatans with two objectives in mind - control over others and money. The second generation leadership is generally naive about the founders' motives and are, therefore, even more dangerous to youth and other "seekers."

I was glad to see that the United Kibbutz Movement takes this threat seriously. Ms. Yoeli's article was a warning to parents and educators. I can only add - take the cults seriously. They prey on the confused and seeking. We, as parents, must assume our responsibility, for if we don't, the cults will only be too happy to do it for us.

GIDI SHALEV
Jerusalem.

conversion and commitment

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - Proper conversion to Judaism cannot be validated by a simple "show me where to sign" statement. I spent a year and a half studying Judaism with a Conservative rabbi before undergoing a brit, immersion in a mikve, and at my request, a bar mitzva, at the age of thirty-nine.

I came to live a Jewish life in Israel, and married at the age of forty-four, ten years ago, but not before going through an Orthodox conversion. It is true that I had satisfied the religious authorities here, but I did not feel more Jewish afterwards. I had already made my commitment.

GERSHOM SELA
Ein Harod (Me'uhad)

To boost immigration: Make life a lot easier

Eric Lucas

woe? Yes, but it is a long stormy passage home.

A bloated bureaucracy, innumerable rules and regulations encourages the citizen to try and cut corners. Cutting corners leads to disrespect for the law, and this has a direct effect on the quality of life in the country. An Israel Television programme put job-seekers in touch with employers. It did some good. But to this day, there is no unified computerized labour exchange dealing with skills, with both Israelis and immigrants. To this day the immigrant has to rely largely on non-governmental agencies to find a job.

I HAD BARELY finished writing these lines, when I saw an article in The Post headed: "Sorry No Jobs." Here are a few lines from a report dated March 24, 1987.

"While activists have stressed the urgency of improving the job situation, especially in the event of an increase in the present Soviet emigration rate ... disagreements between the Absorption Ministry and the Jewish Agency Aliya Department ... over how to solve these

problems have confounded attempts to counteract employment hardships."

This does not bode well for Russian immigrants settling in Israel. Only a concrete effort through a computerized, efficient labour exchange can begin to tackle this problem.

Early in 1968, when unemployment was rife and a sick joke made the rounds that the last person out of the country should switch off the airport lights, we undertook a small survey. Within one week we found 1,200 job openings in the classified columns of the press... but new immigrants could not read them.

Television is being used to try to minimize the slaughter on our roads. Amongst Jews abroad, Israel is considered to have some of the most reckless drivers in the world. This is part of our quality of life, alas, in the negative.

UNLESS our government wakes up from its complacency and makes a real attempt at improving the quality of life in this country, things will not change except to get worse. The government and Knesset must strengthen the many voluntary efforts being made-up and down the country. It is a sign of the present

malaise that night after night we are bombarded by the prospect of making easy money through the lotteries. This prime viewing time would be better utilized trying to improve the quality of life. We have the talent to do this. We don't need to see clowns jumping up and down pointing the way to easy street by scratching lottery slips.

It is infuriating to think that we are capable of improving the quality of life in this country, yet little is being done about it. If certain cabinet members would shout and cajole less regarding their party positions, and appeal to their followers to make less noise and use less violence, they could achieve a great deal.

Let the Treasury and other ministries cut out the vicious red tape all along the line. Let somebody from these ministries pose as a new immigrant or as a potential investor and try taking his car out of customs, getting a sheaf of licences together, or applying for a mortgage; he will soon find ways to bring this country into the computer age. It is cheaper to pension off unnecessary clerks than to have newcomers leave the country disappointed.

The quality of life in this country must be improved. Only then will we be seen by Jews abroad as an attractive country to live in, a country which, by its quality of life, richly compensates newcomers for the fleshpots they left behind. Besides, the fleshpots in Israel are not that small any longer.

The writer is former chairman of the British Olim Society.

great explanation of our existence of this earth that finally puts secular humanism to rout. He may gloat over physicists who find God in the atom, but of what possible relevance can this be to a liturgy that identifies God as a personal, communicative, just, chastising and saving power? Can anyone still offer "purpose" as a sound idea of Jewish theology in the age of Auschwitz? I am aware that there are some theological positions that Jews find tenable in the post-Holocaust world - God as the great silent sufferer of exile, God as the voice demanding moral truth but audible only to those who hear it, God as our fellow victim, God as man's challenge, etc. But God as master of the Grand Design? *Ribbo-no shel olam?* Even a secular humanist is revolted by the idea of the God of Israel as the designer of a world that includes Auschwitz.

If Rabbi Carmell preaches to us about the lack of certainty and confidence in our view of the world, he might at least admit that his own writings are as shaky as anyone else's. That would indeed be the way to start asking for a dialogue.

The writer teaches Modern Jewish History at Tel Aviv University.

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THE POINT is not that these are all false believers or mistaken individuals. The point is that all transcendent values, even a god, are values and beliefs maintained by finite, imperfect, human beings who selectively define and interpret whatever they understand of "absolute" values. No one can pretend to hold the key to the code of ultimate truth.

Carmell holds up divine "purpose" and cosmic meaning as the

serious theological doubt. No wonder that the problems of this world that agitate the secular humanists can be presented to Orthodox or Orthodox-aspiring young people as prosaic, impersonal, abstract and of little "ultimate" importance.

Who else would swallow such audacious selectivity on the problem of morality? According to Carmell, "only people who are attuned to the spiritual and who in some sense hear the voice of God" have access to the absolute moral values that Hitler so dramatically denied. Yet, the rest of us know that Torquemada heard the voice of God; that Pius XII did not believe God would object to his

dropouts

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - As a Soviet emigre who, in Vienna, chose the U.S. over Israel (you call me a "dropout"), I resent your prime minister's meddling in my life by pressuring the authorities here to cancel our political refugee status.

I am a jazz musician who after years of oppression has finally succeeded in establishing a band together with a former South African who has also settled in America.

Since my partner used to run a smoked fish shop in his former country, we have named the group "Our Brothers' Kippers" and specialize in Jewish ethnic music. We are both committed Zionists, so, when playing before Jewish audiences, open every performance with *Hatikva*. We frequently entertain Israeli emigrants (*yordim*) and accommodate them with Israeli songs I learned from the refuseniks in the Soviet Union.

I consider myself just as much a Zionist as any other Jew. So, please Mr. Shamir, stop force-feeding us with aliyah. It will only bring on needless animosity.

JOSEF GORATZVETICH
Brighton Beach, N.Y.

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